

SCHUITEN

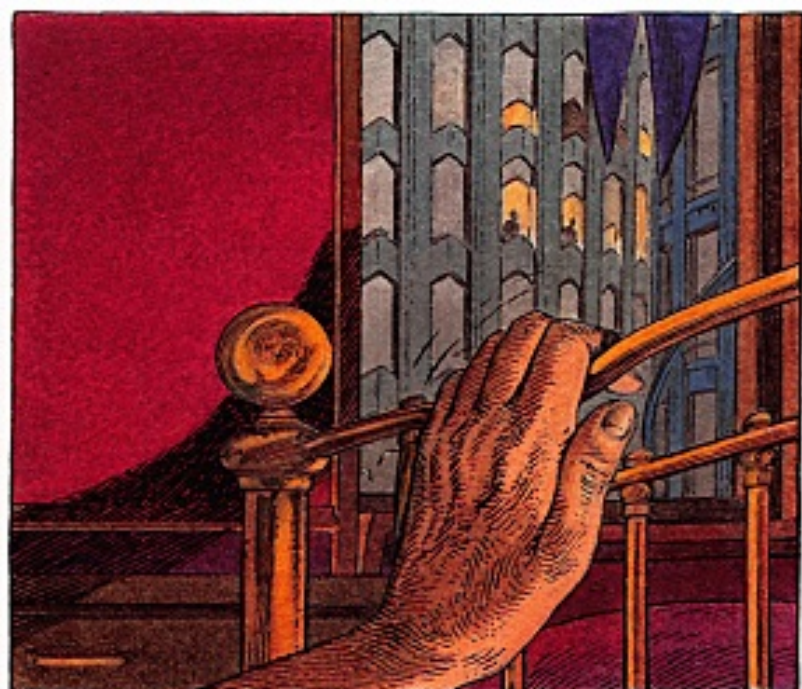
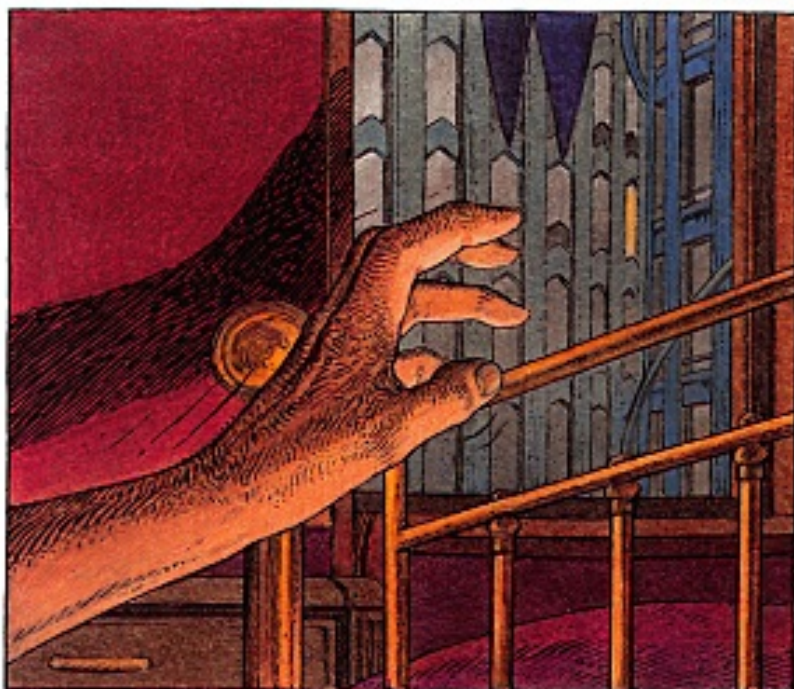
PEETERS

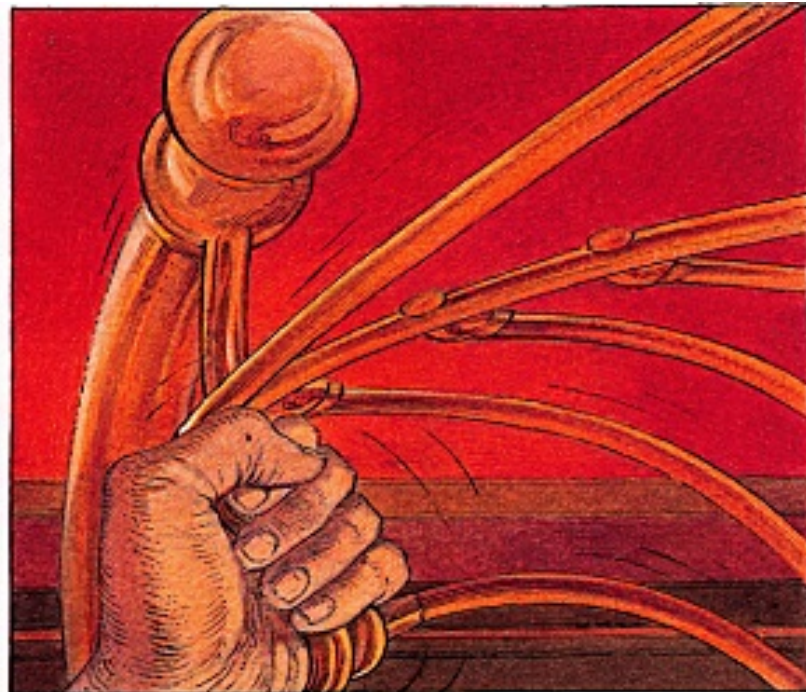
THE SHADOW OF A MAN



FeestComics

THE SHADOW OF A MAN







IT'S NOTHING.
IT'S NOTHING.



ALBERT?



WHAT IS IT ALBERT?
WHAT'S WRONG?

ANOTHER
NIGHTMARE! I CAN'T
TAKE IT ANYMORE,
I'M EXHAUSTED.



I'M TELLING YOU, YOU
SHOULD SEE SOMEONE.

HMPH. WHAT'S THE USE?
DOCTORS DON'T CARE AN
AWFUL LOT ABOUT DREAMS.

TRY AND GET BACK TO SLEEP, ALBERT!
COME CUDDLE UP TO ME!



SO THAT IT CAN START AGAIN...
NO, BETTER I GET UP NOW.



ANYWAY, IT'S ALMOST
TIME I WAS UP.



HAVE A GOOD DAY, SWEETIE!



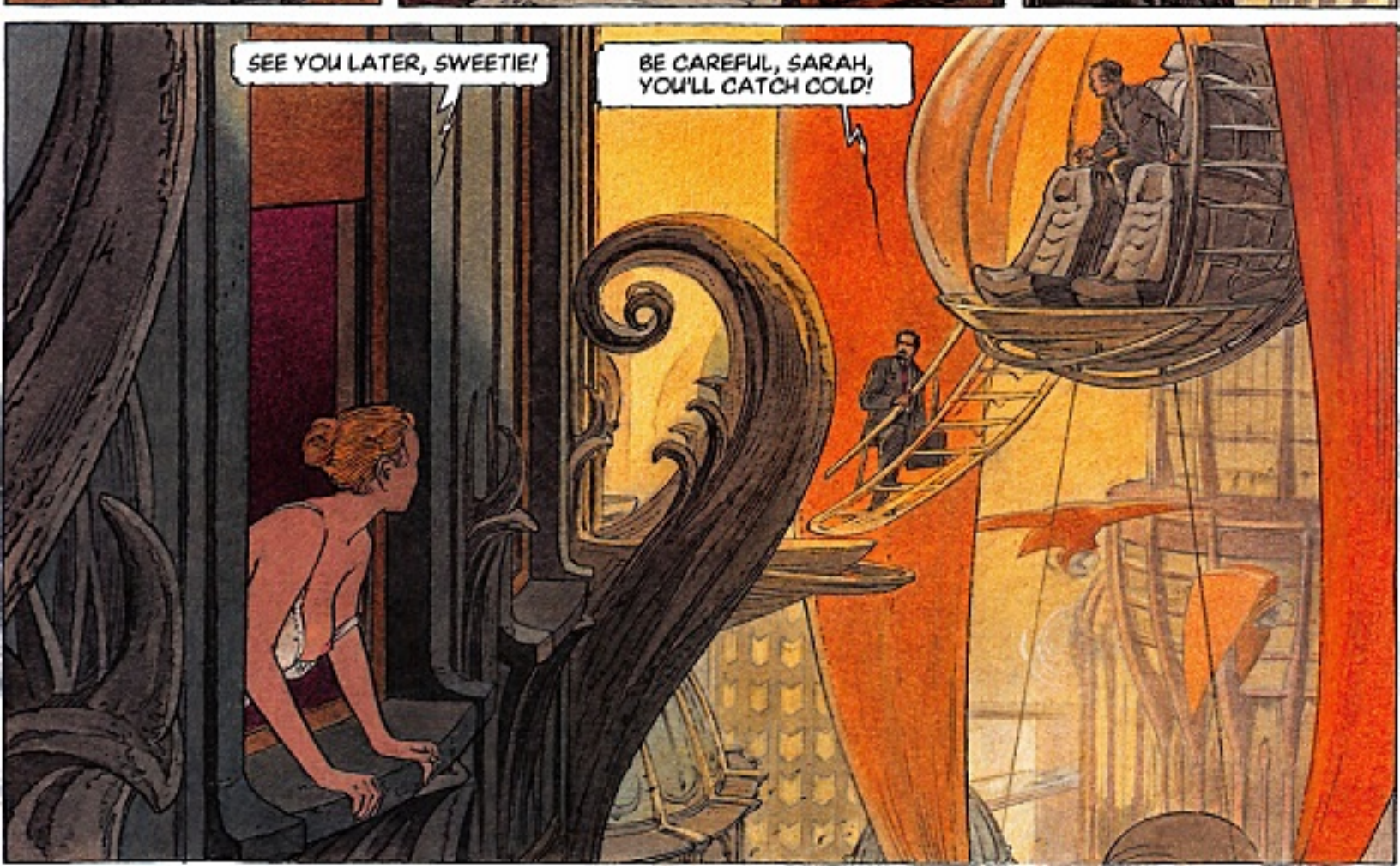
I WON'T BE HOME TOO
EARLY, I'VE GOT A PACKED
DAY, A TRICKY CASE.

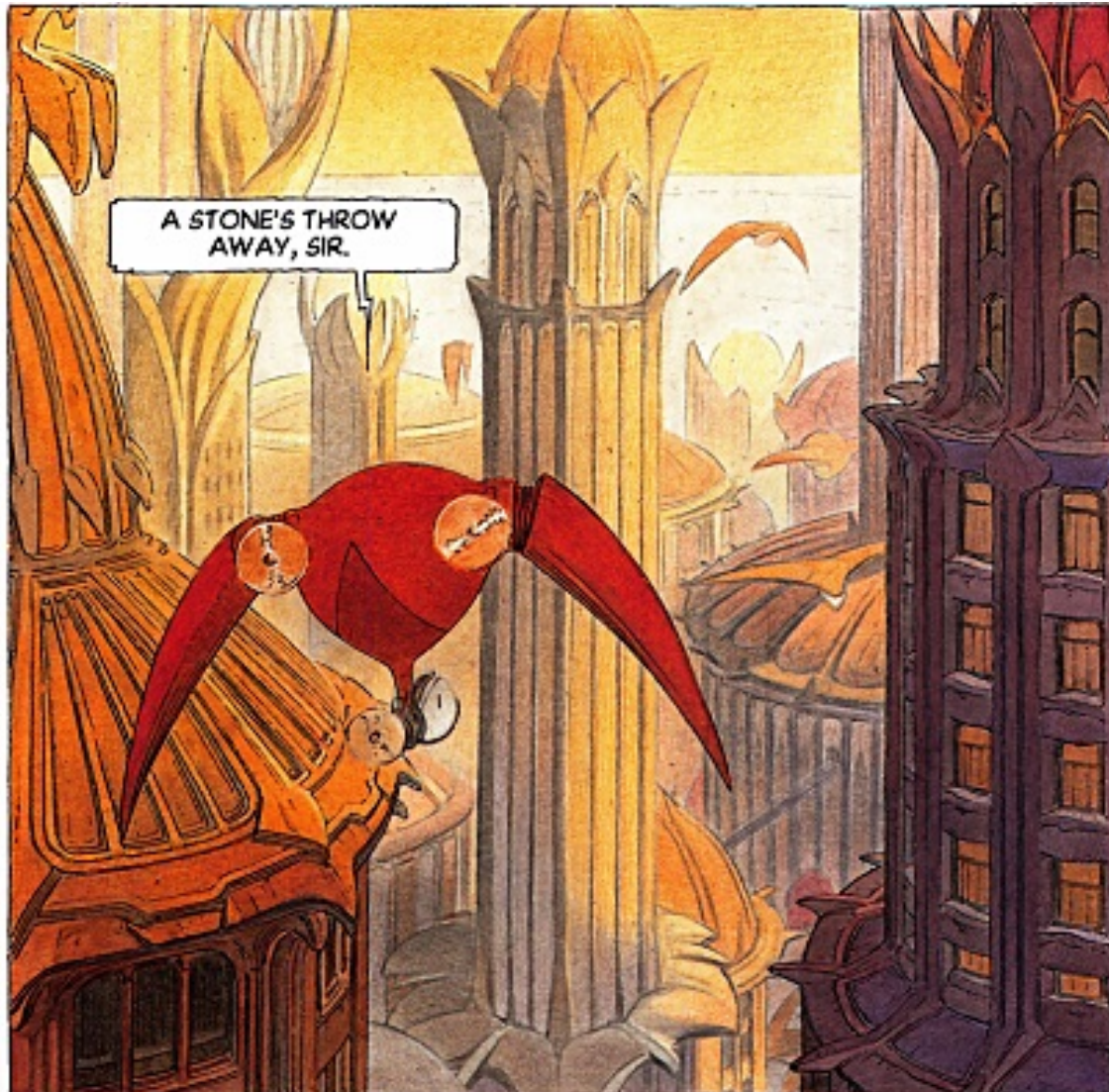


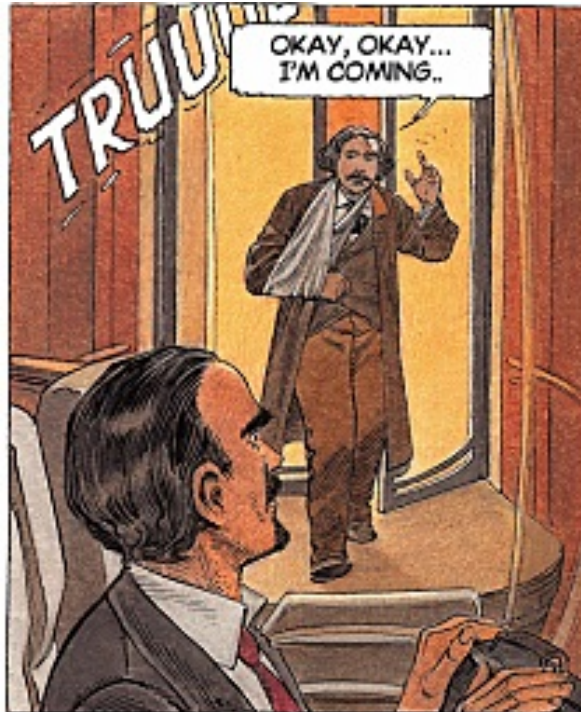
TAXI!

SEE YOU LATER, SWEETIE!

BE CAREFUL, SARAH,
YOU'LL CATCH COLD!







OKAY, OKAY...
I'M COMING..



COME ON, MR ARRAN! AH, I DO SAY
YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER ALREADY.



I'M NOT BAD, THANK YOU! HONESTLY SPEAKING, I'M NOT
QUITE WITH IT YET... A LITTLE MORE AND IT'D BE THE
LIFE INSURANCE PEOPLE DEALING WITH ME!



YOU, HOWEVER, SEEM VERY
TIRED. I HEARD YOU'D JUST GOT
MARRIED...

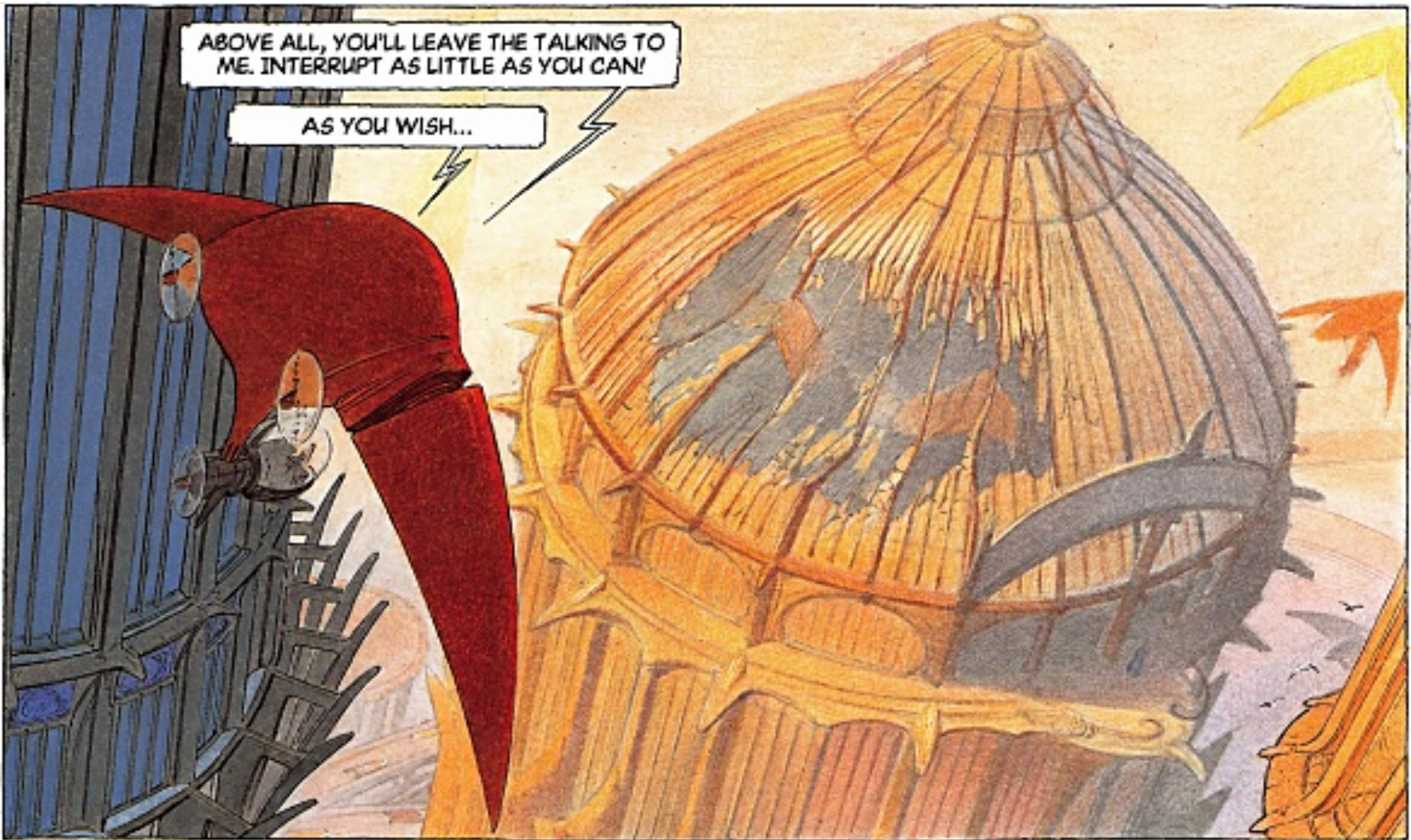


BE CAREFUL ALL THE SAME,
TAKE IT EASY!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME,
EVERYTHING'S FINE!

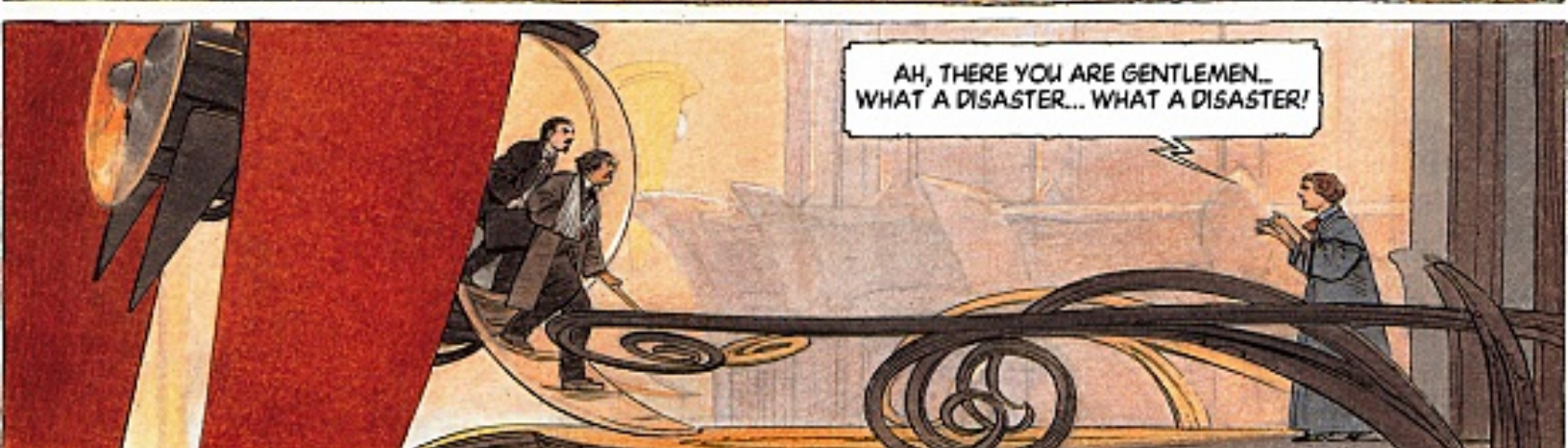


IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT
CONCERNS ME, IT'S YOUR CASE. IT
DOESN'T LOOK GOOD

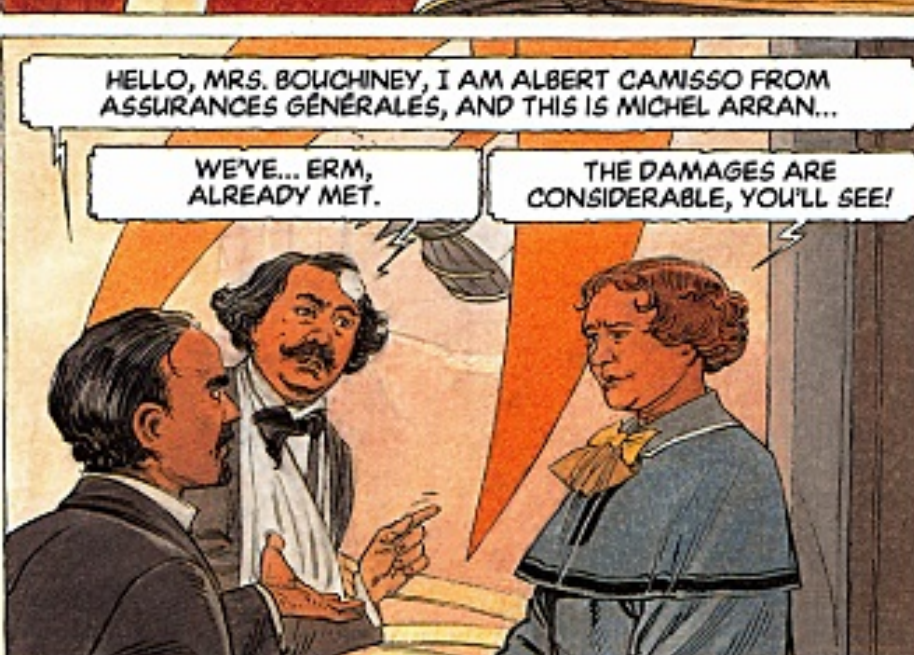


ABOVE ALL, YOU'LL LEAVE THE TALKING TO ME. INTERRUPT AS LITTLE AS YOU CAN!

AS YOU WISH...



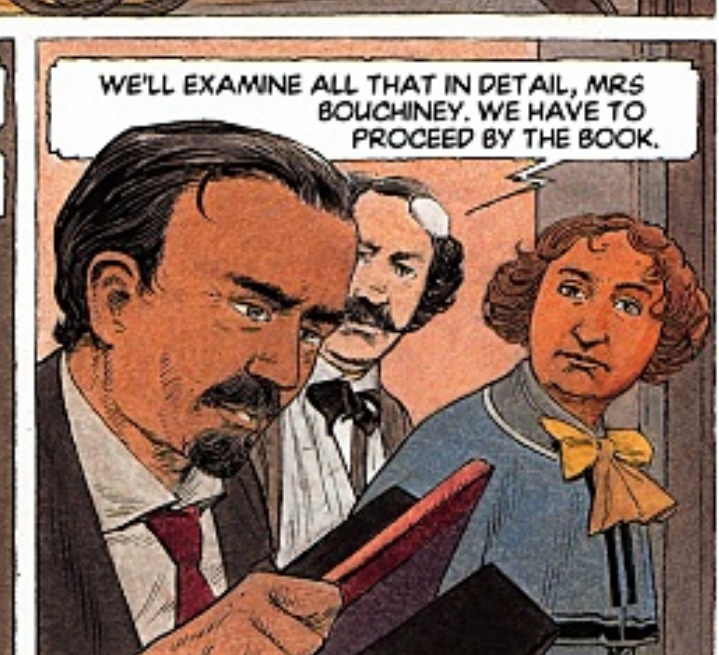
AH, THERE YOU ARE GENTLEMEN...
WHAT A DISASTER... WHAT A DISASTER!



HELLO, MRS. BOUCHINEY, I AM ALBERT CAMISSO FROM
ASSURANCES GÉNÉRALES, AND THIS IS MICHEL ARRAN...

WE'VE... ERM,
ALREADY MET.

THE DAMAGES ARE
CONSIDERABLE, YOU'LL SEE!



WE'LL EXAMINE ALL THAT IN DETAIL, MRS
BOUCHINEY. WE HAVE TO
PROCEED BY THE BOOK.

SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SHOP, SUCH A BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION... ADMIT IT, MR ARRAN, YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE YOUR SPOT VERY WELL DID YOU!

BELIEVE ME, I'D HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO CRASH AT ALL!

WHO DID YOUR GLASS ROOF, MRS BOUCHINEY?

OH, IT'S VERY OLD... SHOULD BE WORTH AN AWFUL LOT. AT THE TIME, THE TOWN WAS STILL CALLED BRENTANO... A MUCH PRETTIER NAME THAN BLOSSFELDTSTADT, AND MUCH EASIER FOR THE FORIEGERS TO PRONOUNCE!

IN SHORT, A DILAPIDATED CONSTRUCTION WHICH DOESN'T CONFORM TO MODERN REGULATIONS... A GLASS ROOF THAT COULD'VE COLLAPSED AT ANY MOMENT... THE METAL FRAME ISN'T EVEN REINFORCED.

GOOD GRACIOUS, I NEVER REALISED.

THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SALVAGE. WHAT A SHAME! HMPH. THE AERIAL STEREOSCOPY WAS WELL WORTH SOME EFFORT.

ON THE NIGHT OF THE ACCIDENT, THE LIGHTS WERE LIT, I SUPPOSE?

OH YES, EVERY SINGLE ONE! "THE PALACE OF A THOUSAND LIGHTS" JUST THINK... YOU SHOULD SEE IT, IT'S AMAZING!

IT'S ABOVE ALL EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, YOU MISLED MR ARRAN WITH THIS ARCHAIC LIGHTING.

YOU REALLY THINK SO?... MY GOD, WHAT HAVE I DONE?

YOU HAVE A GOOD INSURANCE POLICY, I HOPE?

ER... CERTAINLY... THAT'S TO SAY... I SHOULD RUMMAGE THROUGH ALL THE OLD PAPERS.

HERE, RIGHT?



GOODBYE GENTLEMEN, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN!

POOR WOMAN! YOU WENT A LITTLE OVER THE TOP BACK THERE... I WAS ALMOST READY TO PAY HER OUT OF MY OWN POCKET, I FELT SO GUILTY!

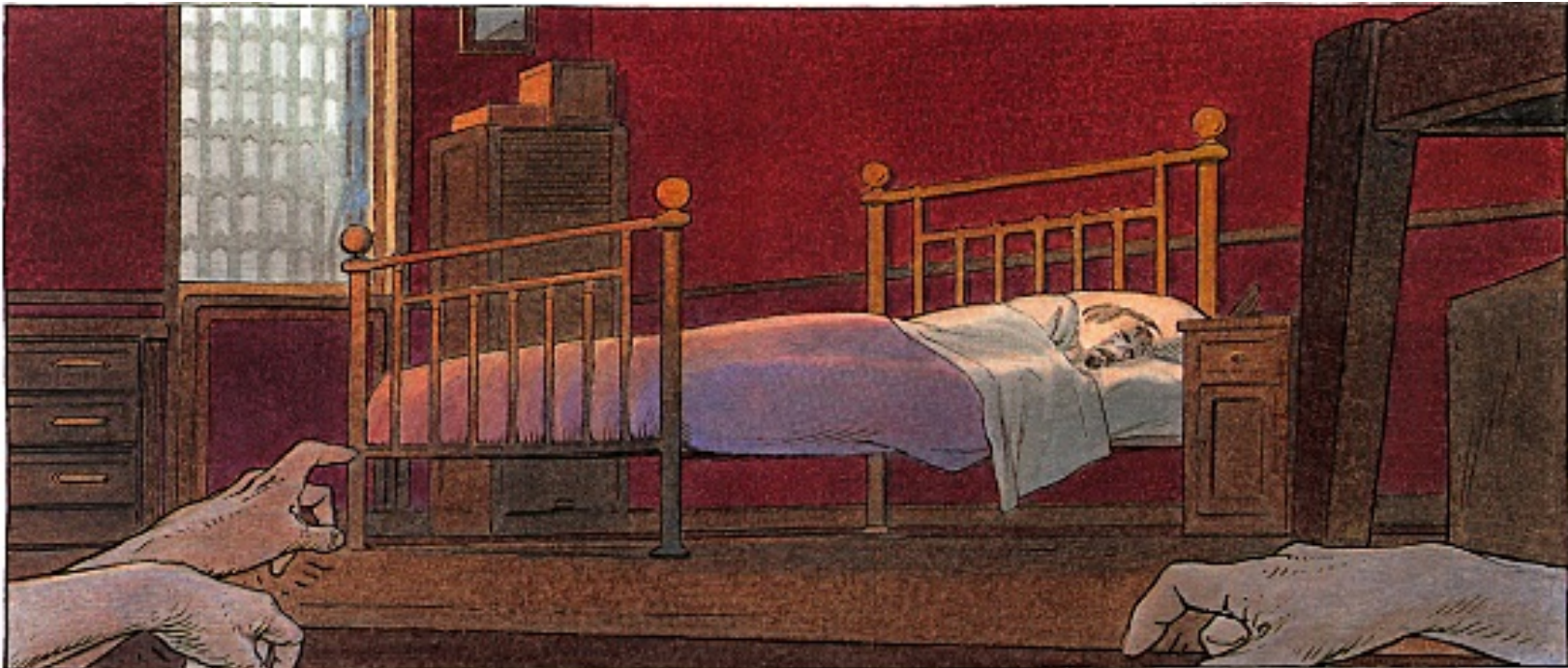


PLEASE YOURSELF, ANYWAY, WE
WON'T INSURE YOU ANYMORE... IN
ANY CASE, NOT UNDER THE SAME
CONDITIONS, YOUR PREMIUMS
WILL BE GREATLY INCREASED.



YOU'RE INCREDIBLE! ARE THEY ALL LIKE YOU AT ASSURANCES GÉNÉRALES?







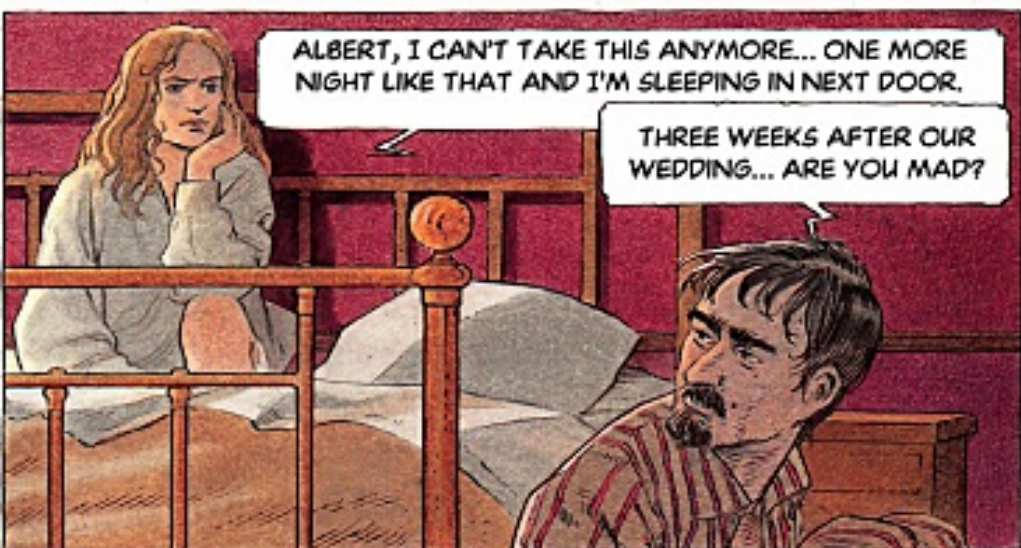




BUT IT'S NOT
REAL... WHAT
HAPPENED?



IT WAS HORRIBLE,
HORRIBLE!



ALBERT, I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE... ONE MORE
NIGHT LIKE THAT AND I'M SLEEPING IN NEXT DOOR.

THREE WEEKS AFTER OUR
WEDDING... ARE YOU MAD?



NO. I'M NOT MAD, IF THERE'S
ANYONE MAD HERE, IT'S YOU.

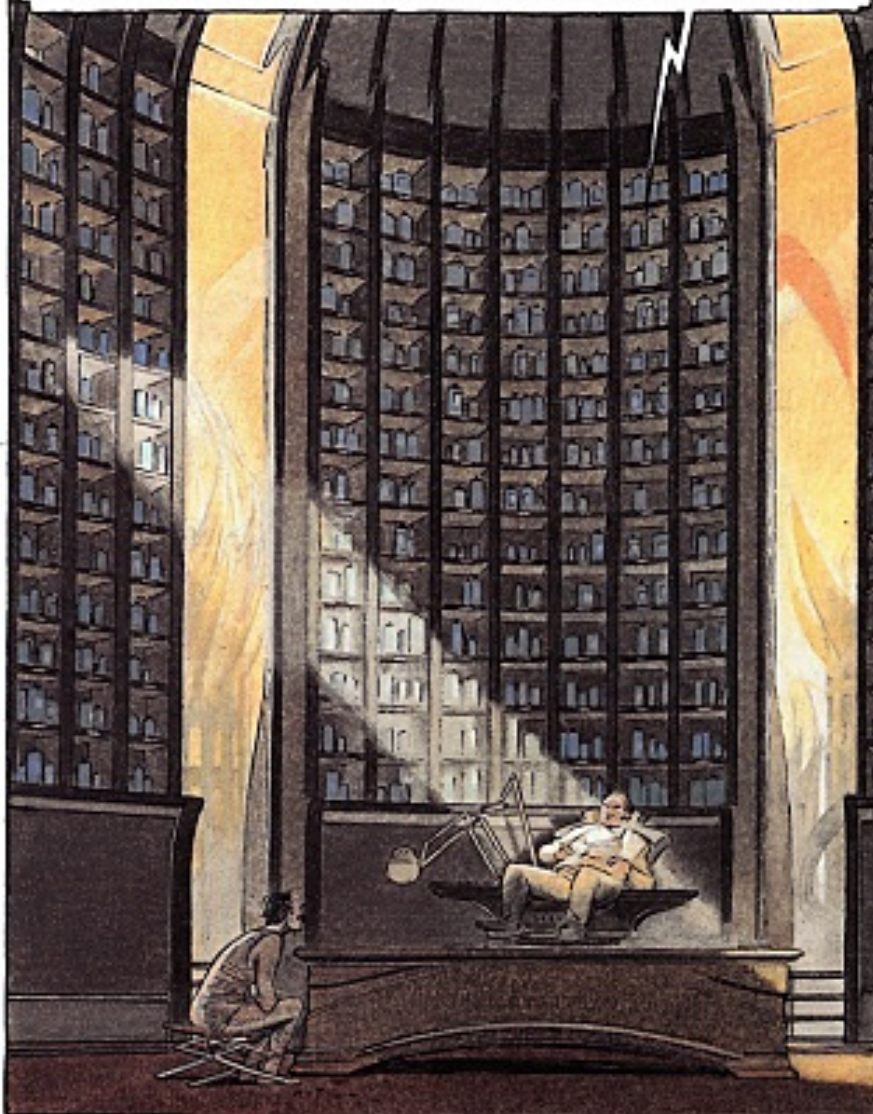
ALBERT, THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'LL SAY
IT: YOU HAVE TO SEE A DOCTOR!



MADMAN, I
MARRIED A
MADMAN.

THESE
NIGHTMARES
HAVE TO STOP.

FRANKLY, MR CHAMISSO, I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND YOU.
IF I WAS AS LUCKY AS TO HAVE A WIFE LIKE YOURS, I
WOULDN'T EVEN WANT TO SLEEP AT NIGHT! YOU HAVE A
SHARP EYE, MY FRIEND, AND NOT JUST IN YOUR WORK...



ER... EXCUSE ME
DOCTOR, BUT...

YES, I KNOW, YOUR
DREAM! BUT WE ALL
DREAM, MR CHAMISSO.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL!



I ASSURE YOU,
DOCTOR... I'VE
ALWAYS HAD
NIGHTMARES, BUT
RECENTLY THEY'VE
BECOME TRULY
AWFUL...



RECENTLY? NOT SINCE YOUR WEDDING
ANYWAY? THAT'D BE THE LAST STRAW.

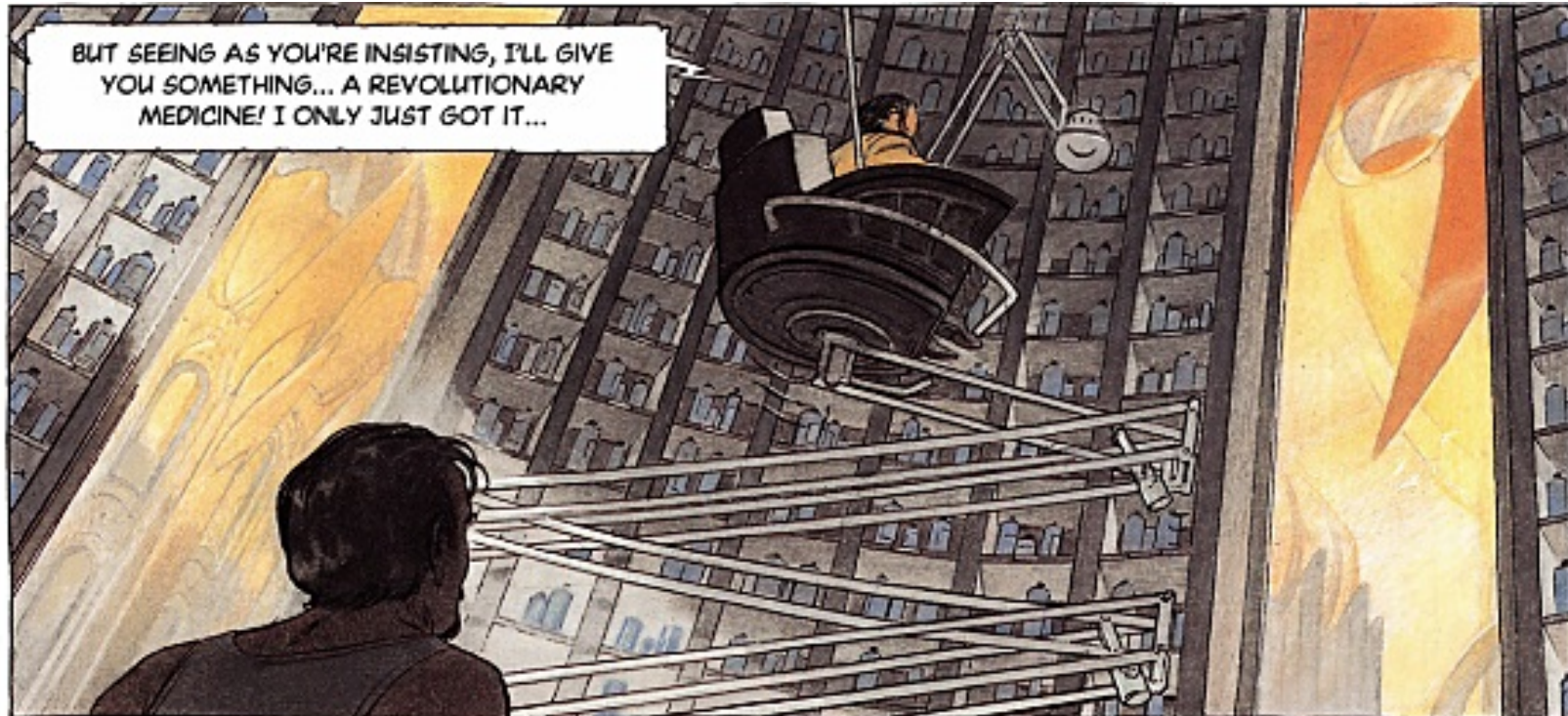
ER... I DON'T REMEMBER EXACTLY...
HMM... WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT I'M
NOT WELL... IN THE MORNINGS, I WAKE
UP EXHAUSTED, IN THE EVENINGS, I'M
AFRAID TO GO TO SLEEP...



IF YOU WANT MY OPINION, YOU'RE JUST OVERWORKED, YOU
TAKE YOUR WORK TOO SERIOUSLY... WHAT YOU REALLY NEED
TO DO IS TAKE SOME TIME OFF. THREE DAYS HONEYMOON,
ADMIT IT, THAT'S FAR TOO SHORT!



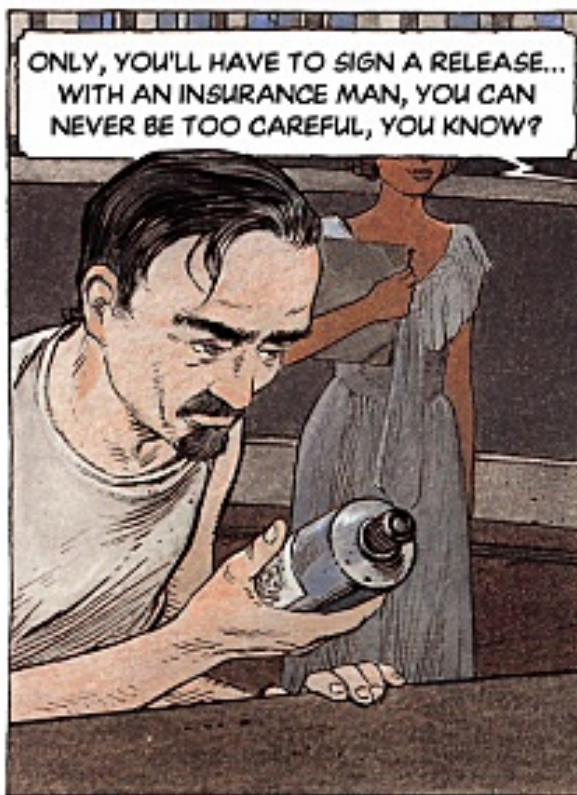
BUT SEEING AS YOU'RE INSISTING, I'LL GIVE
YOU SOMETHING... A REVOLUTIONARY
MEDICINE! I ONLY JUST GOT IT...



IT'S GUARANTEED PLANT-FREE, PURE
CHEMICALS! TRUST ME, IT'S SERIOUS STUFF.

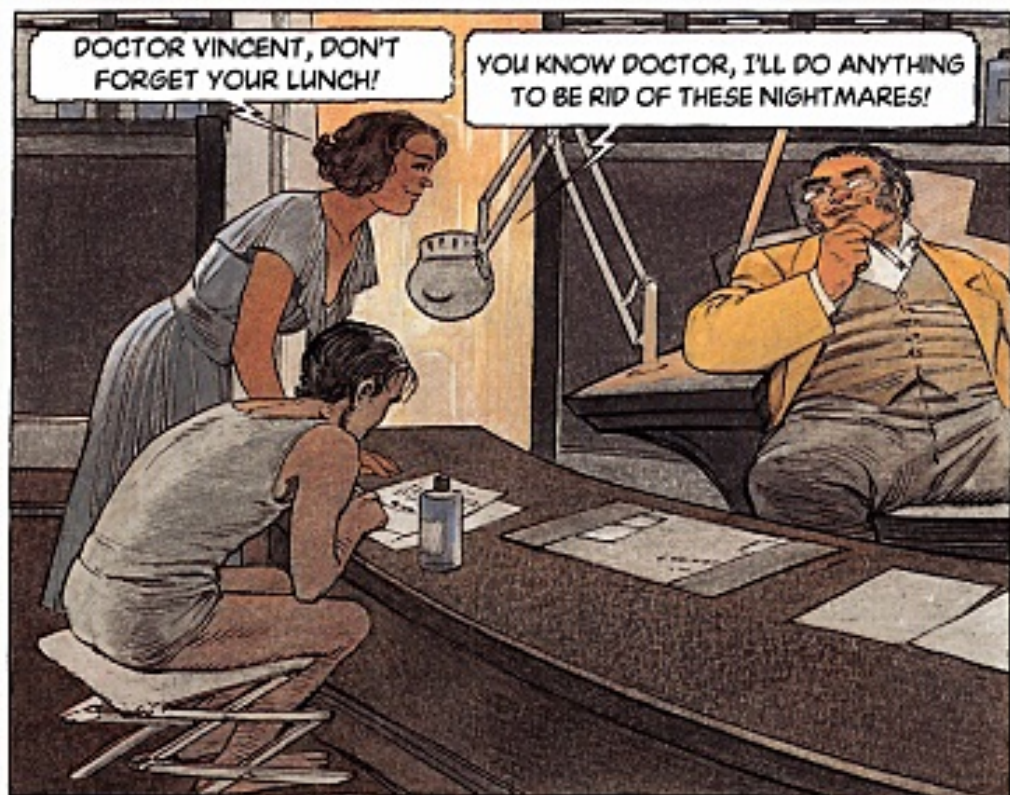


ONLY, YOU'LL HAVE TO SIGN A RELEASE...
WITH AN INSURANCE MAN, YOU CAN
NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL, YOU KNOW?



DOCTOR VINCENT, DON'T
FORGET YOUR LUNCH!

YOU KNOW DOCTOR, I'LL DO ANYTHING
TO BE RID OF THESE NIGHTMARES!





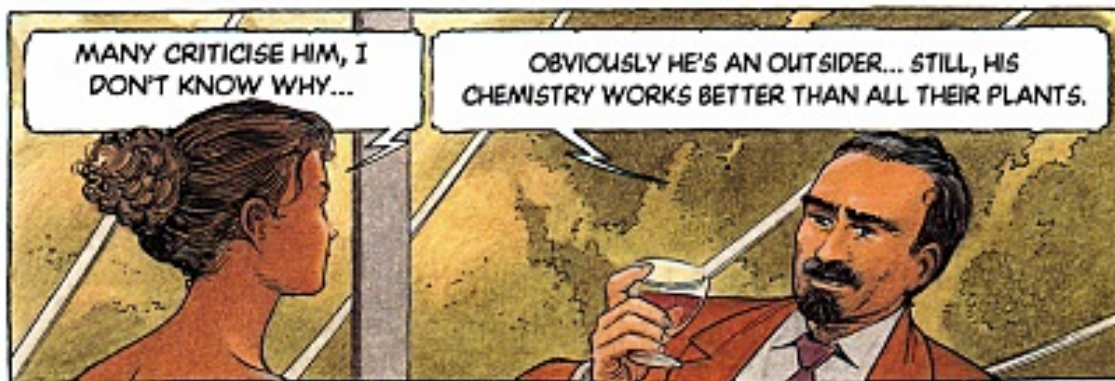


WELL, I WAS STARVING! I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THIS NEW MEDICINE, BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD SUCH AN APPETITE.



ALBERT, I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS...

THIS DOCTOR VINCENT CLEARLY EXCEEDS HIS REPUTATION!

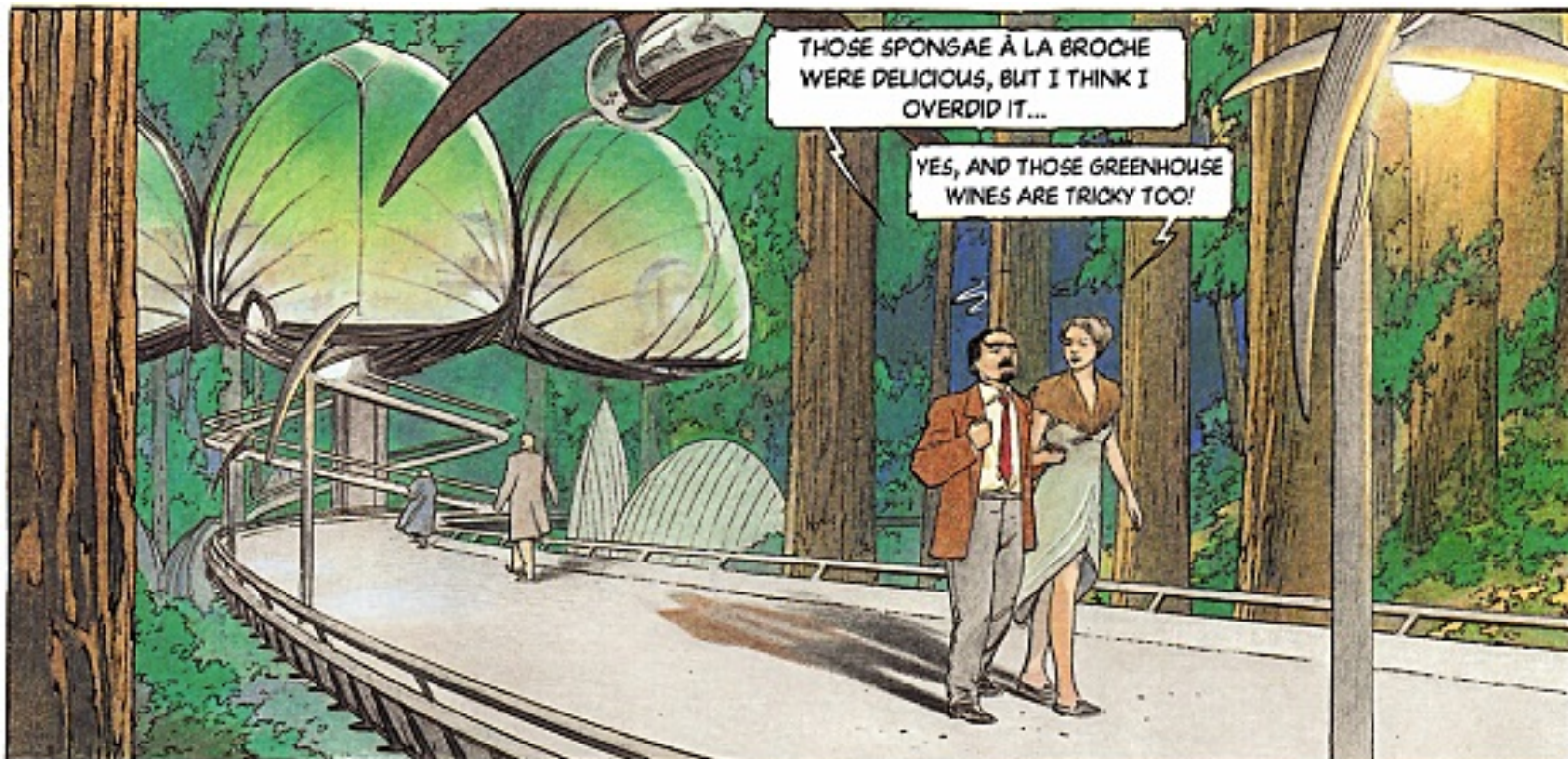


MANY CRITICISE HIM, I DON'T KNOW WHY...

OBVIOUSLY HE'S AN OUTSIDER... STILL, HIS CHEMISTRY WORKS BETTER THAN ALL THEIR PLANTS.



LET'S GO BACK ON FOOT!
IT'S SO NICE OUT...



THOSE SPONGAE À LA BROCHE
WERE DELICIOUS, BUT I THINK I
OVERDID IT...

YES, AND THOSE GREENHOUSE
WINES ARE TRICKY TOO!



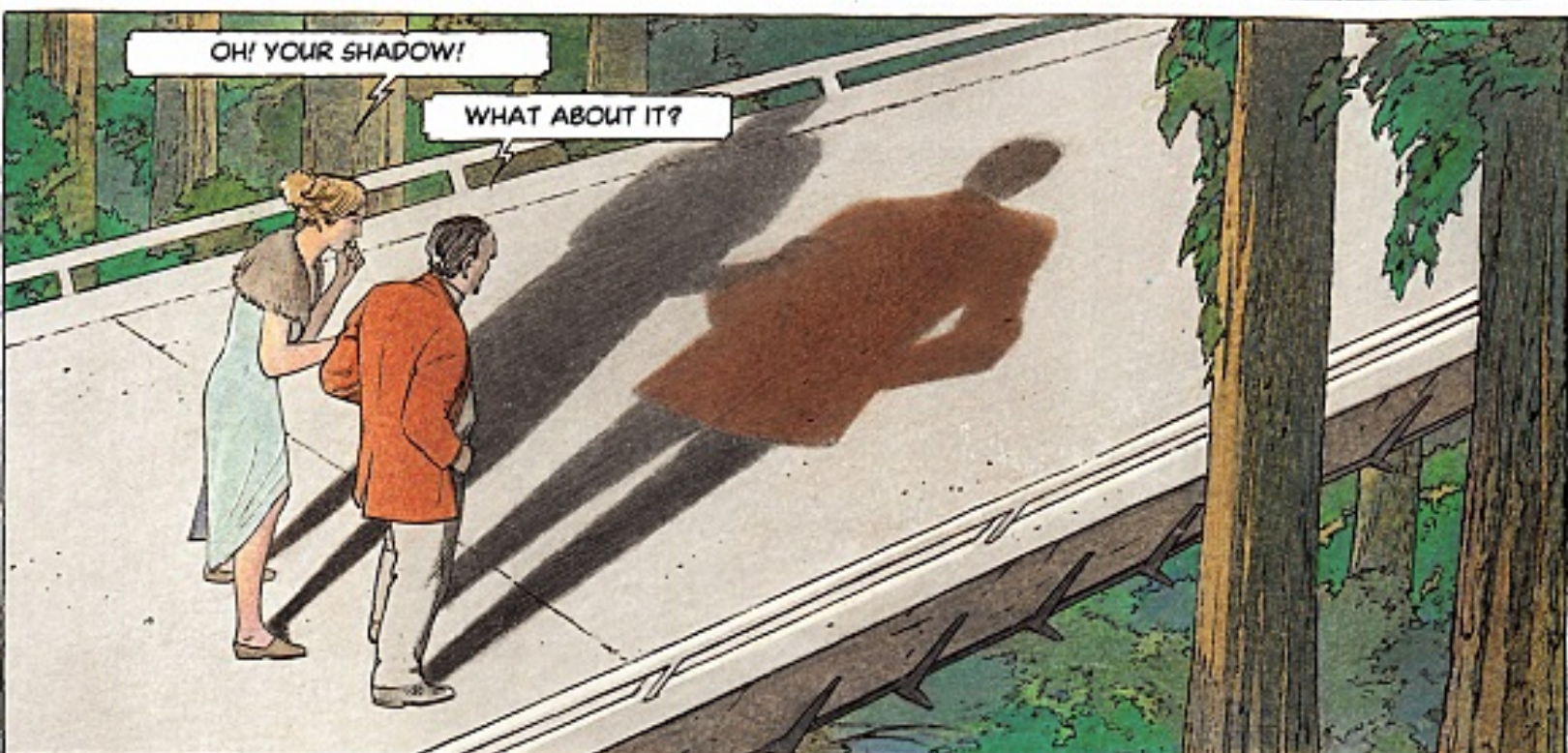
YOU MUST FORGIVE
ME, SWEETHEART. I
HAVEN'T BEEN VERY
EASY TO LIVE WITH
THESE PAST FEW DAYS.

ALBERT, IT'S ME WHO SHOULD
EXCUSE MYSELF. I PERHAPS
HAVEN'T BEEN AS UNDERSTANDING
AS I SHOULD... BUT THOSE NIGHT-
MARES FRIGHTENED ME SO MUCH...



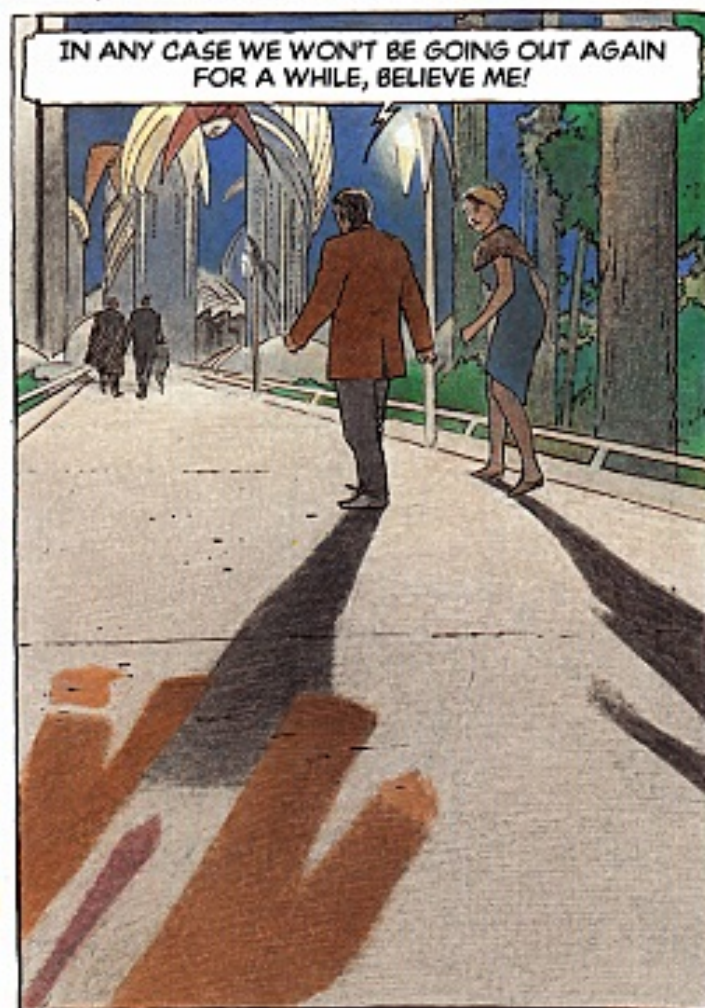
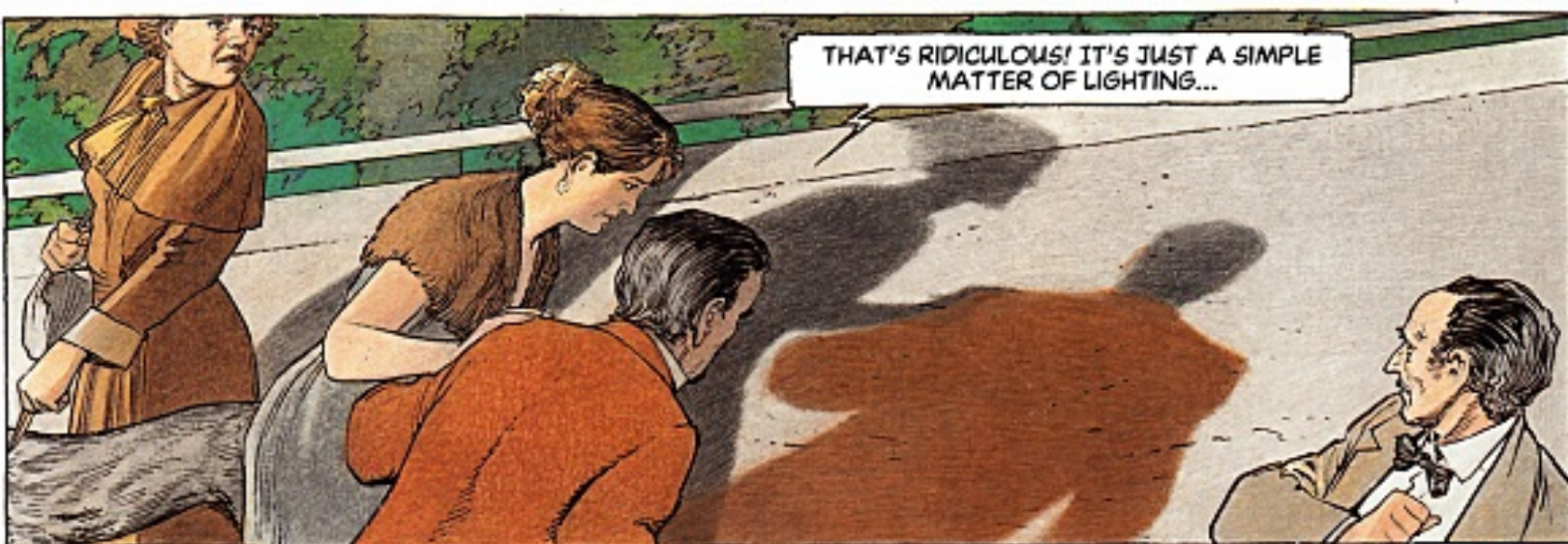
LET'S FORGET ALL THAT! IT'S IN THE PAST NOW.
I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN...

?



OH! YOUR SHADOW!

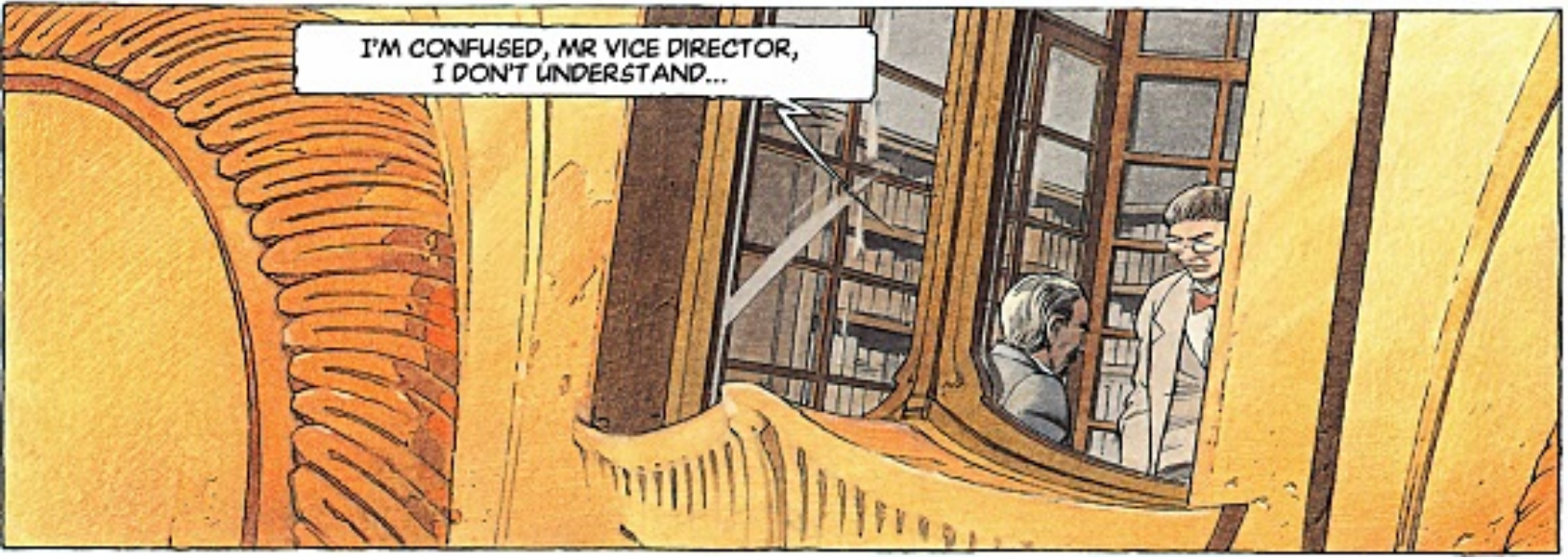
WHAT ABOUT IT?



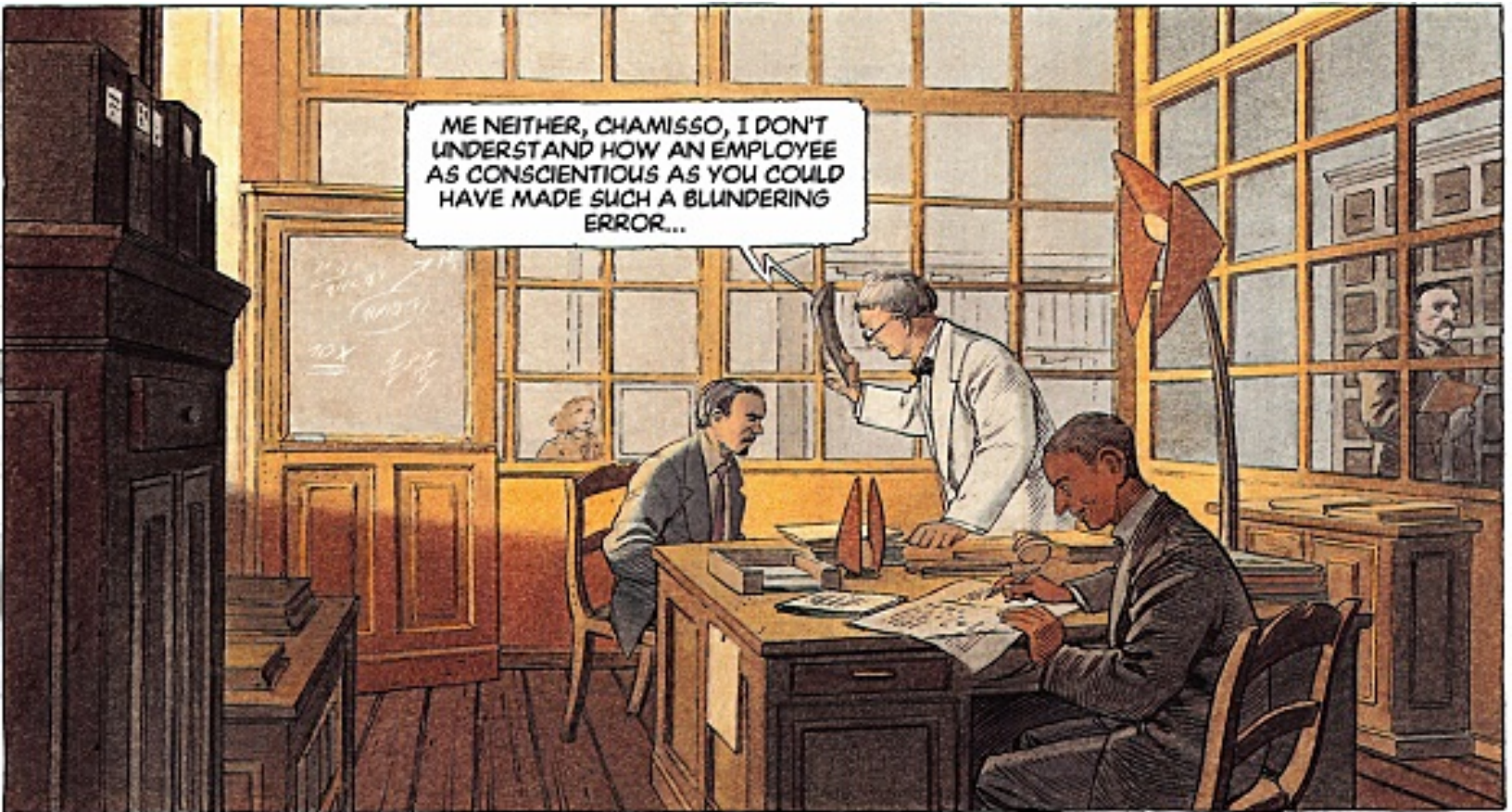


BUT, MR VICE
DIRECTOR...

THERE IS NO 'BUT', CHAMISSO. THE
POLICY WAS SIGNED ON THE 14TH
AND THE INCIDENT HAPPENED ON
THE 19TH. THE REGULATION EIGHT
DAYS HAD NOT PASSED...



I'M CONFUSED, MR VICE DIRECTOR,
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...



ME NEITHER, CHAMISSO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW AN EMPLOYEE AS CONSCIENTIOUS AS YOU COULD HAVE MADE SUCH A BLUNDERING ERROR...



YOU, WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO EFFICIENT, EVEN NOW IN THE ARDAN-BOUCHINEY DISPUTE...



YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME, CHAMISSO! IS THERE A PROBLEM?

ER... IT'S THE LIGHT... I...



MY EYES HAVE GIVING ME TROUBLE FOR SOME TIME... ALWAYS THESE HORRIBLE MIGRAINES...

?



YOU GET MIGRAINES, CHAMISSO? I HAD NO IDEA. IT'S TRUE, YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.

YES THAT'S WHY... ER, I WANTED TO ASK IF... I COULD HAVE TWO OR THREE DAYS OFF... NO MORE...

AH, I GET IT NOW, YOU WANT TO ENJOY YOUR NEWFOUND HAPPINESS! WITH A WIFE AS CHARMING AS YOURS, THAT'S ONLY NATURAL!



BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT...

COME, COME, DON'T PROTEST! I WAS ONCE A NEWLYWED TOO. NOTHING TO BLUSH ABOUT, OLD CHAP!



WAGENBACH, YOU TAKE ON CHAMISSO'S CASES WHILE HE'S AWAY, OKAY?

YES, VICE DIRECTOR, YES OF COURSE!

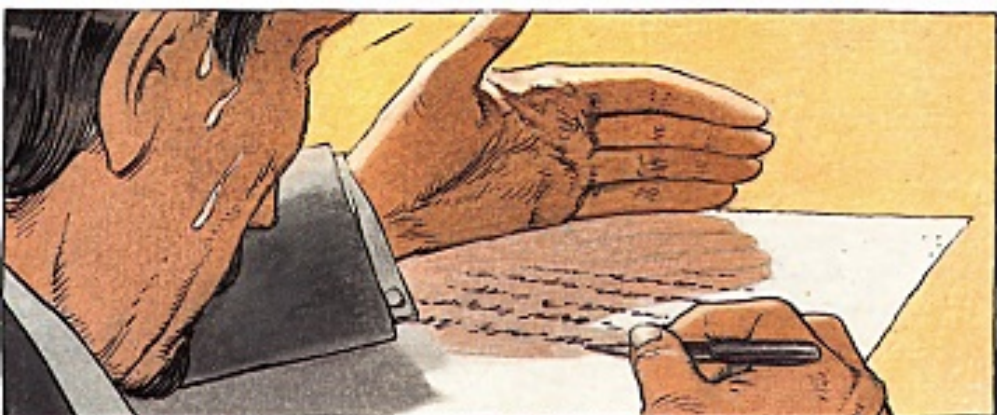


IT'S GETTING DARK, DEAR COLLEAGUE, DON'T YOU THINK?



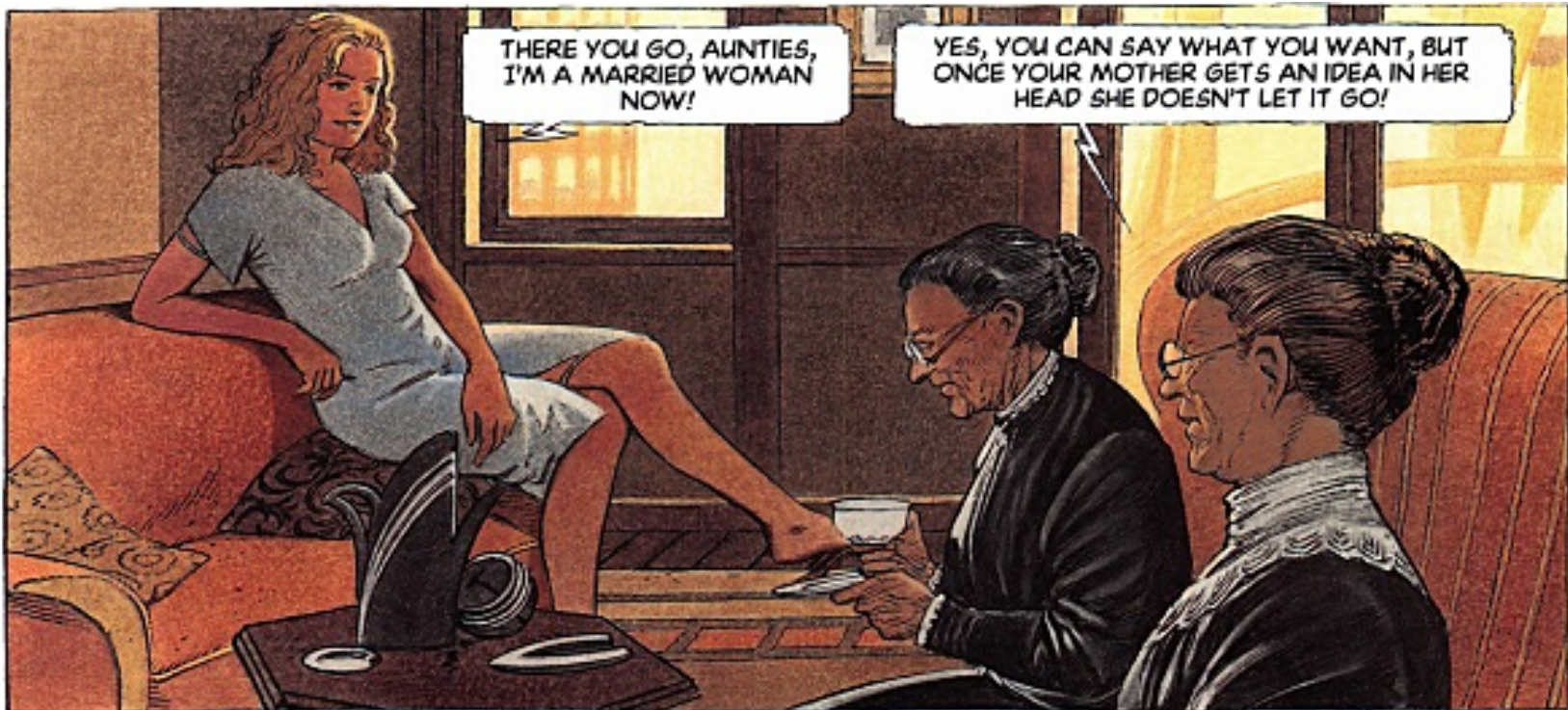
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

ER... I REALLY DON'T FEEL WELL AT ALL...



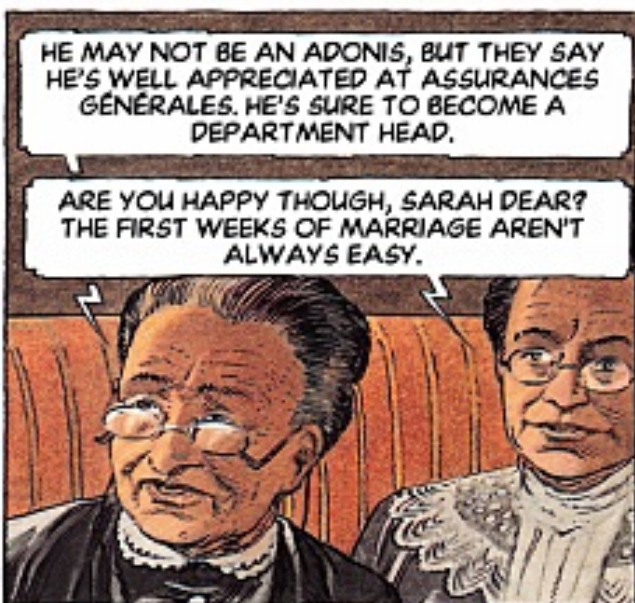
GOOD EVENING, MR
CHAMISSO!





THERE YOU GO, AUNTIES,
I'M A MARRIED WOMAN
NOW!

YES, YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU WANT, BUT
ONCE YOUR MOTHER GETS AN IDEA IN HER
HEAD SHE DOESN'T LET IT GO!



HE MAY NOT BE AN ADONIS, BUT THEY SAY
HE'S WELL APPRECIATED AT ASSURANCES
GÉNÉRALES. HE'S SURE TO BECOME A
DEPARTMENT HEAD.

ARE YOU HAPPY THOUGH, SARAH DEAR?
THE FIRST WEEKS OF MARRIAGE AREN'T
ALWAYS EASY.



HE'S VERY KIND, OF
COURSE, I JUST NEED A
BIT OF TIME TO GET USED
TO HIM... ESPECIALLY
NIGHTS BECAUSE...

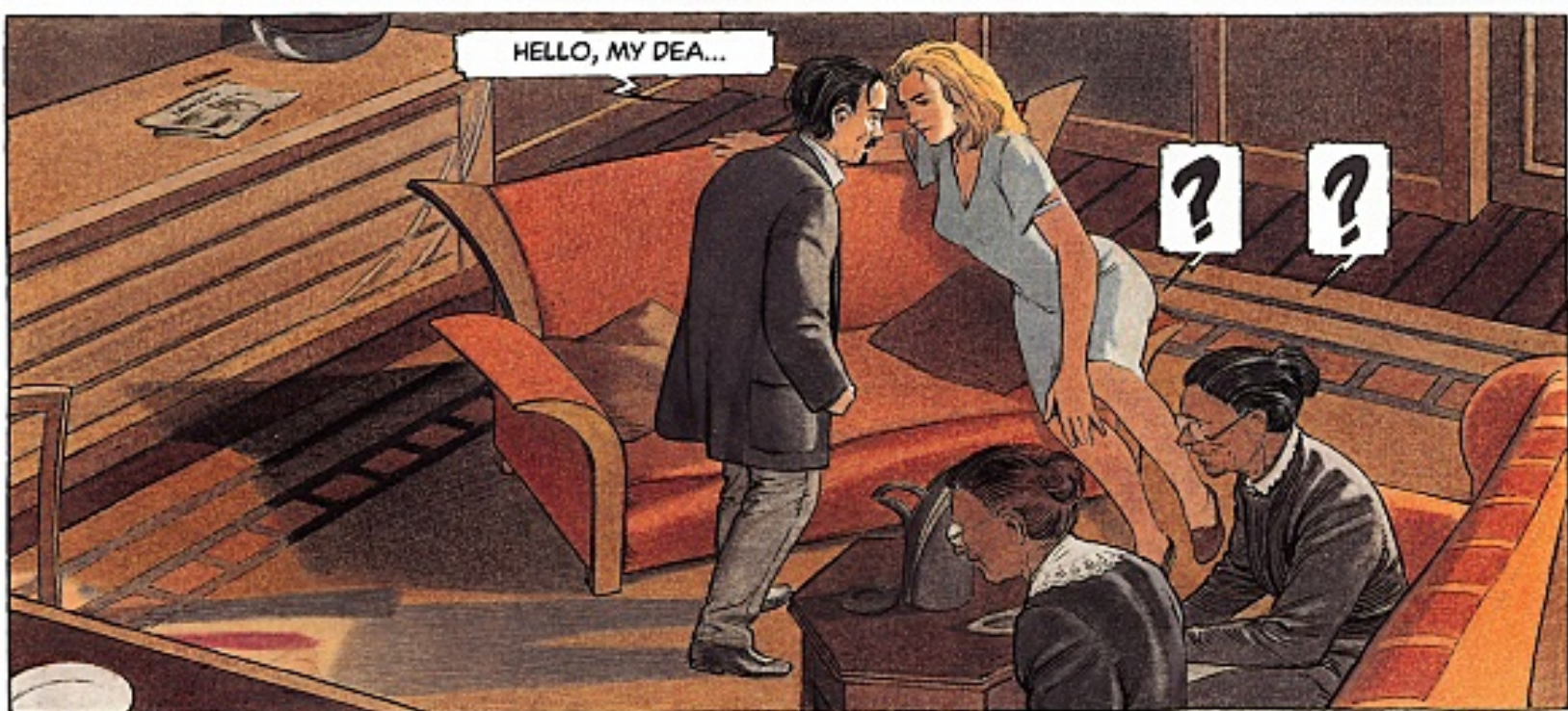
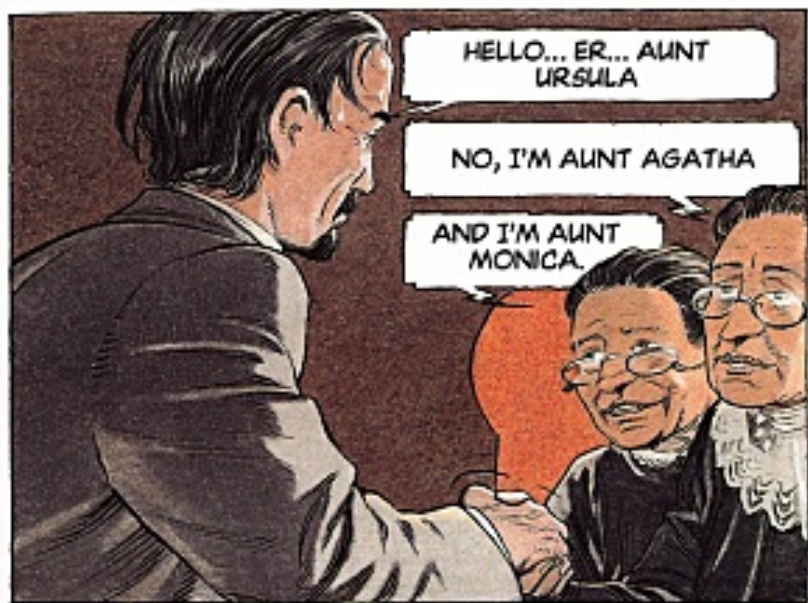
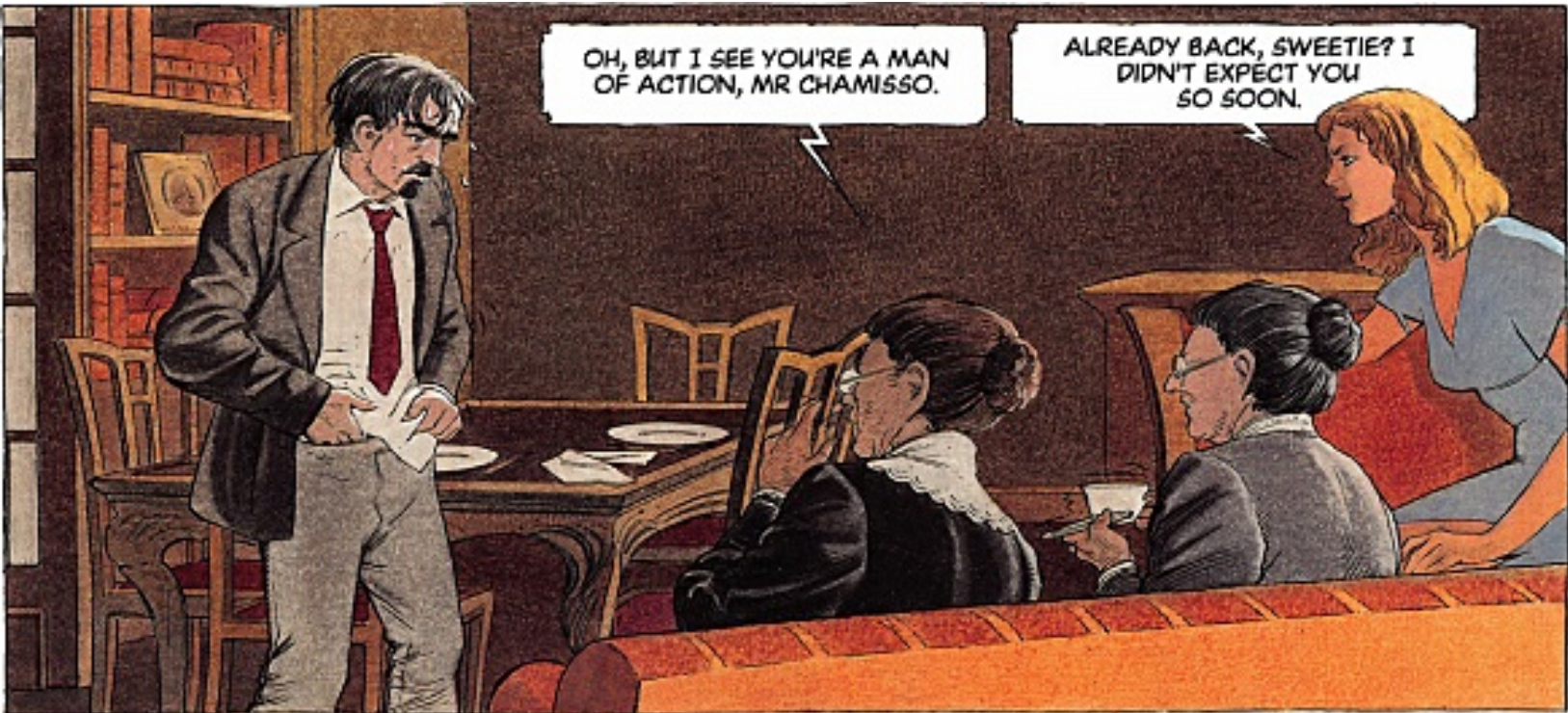


NIGHTS?

OH MY POOR GIRL! I
REMEMBER WITH YOUR
POOR UNCLE WILBUR...



ALBERT! WHAT...





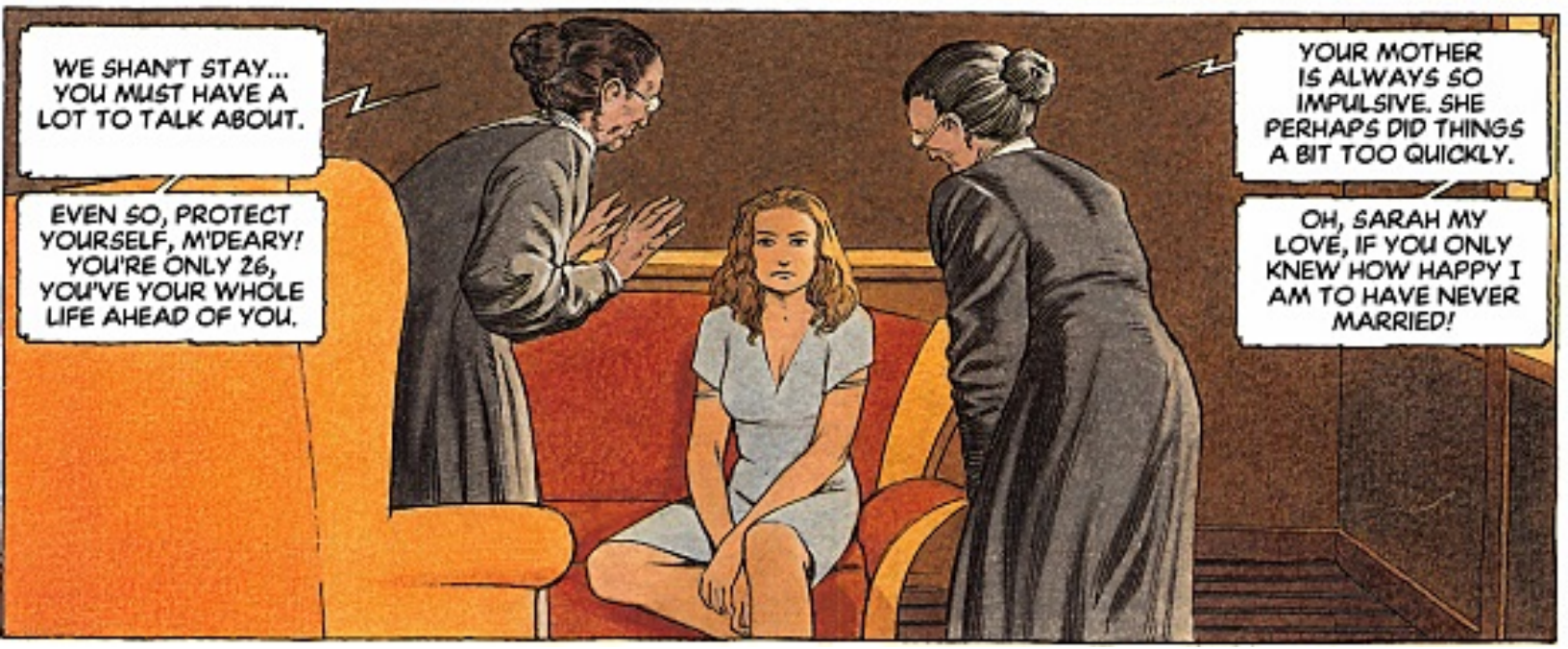
ER... I DON'T FEEL WELL... NOT
WELL AT ALL... I'M GOING TO LIE
DOWN A MOMENT.



A VERY STRANGE LAD.
VERY DIFFERENT FROM HIS
WEDDING DAY.

I WOULDN'T HAVE
EXPECTED THAT FROM HIM.

I ASSURE YOU THAT...
NORMALLY...



WE SHAN'T STAY...
YOU MUST HAVE A
LOT TO TALK ABOUT.

EVEN SO, PROTECT
YOURSELF, M'DEARY!
YOU'RE ONLY 26,
YOU'VE YOUR WHOLE
LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.

YOUR MOTHER
IS ALWAYS SO
IMPULSIVE. SHE
PERHAPS DID THINGS
A BIT TOO QUICKLY.

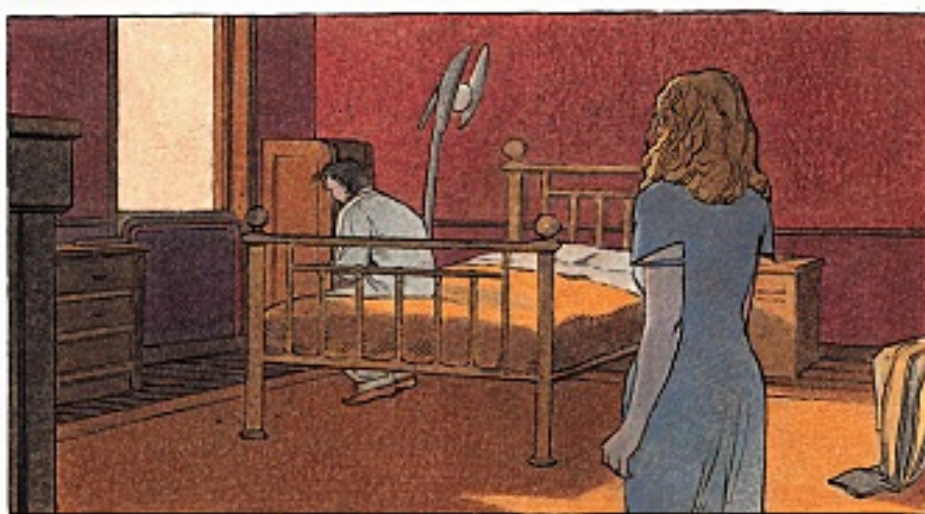
OH, SARAH MY
LOVE, IF YOU ONLY
KNEW HOW HAPPY I
AM TO HAVE NEVER
MARRIED!



SEE YOU LATER...

AND DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH!

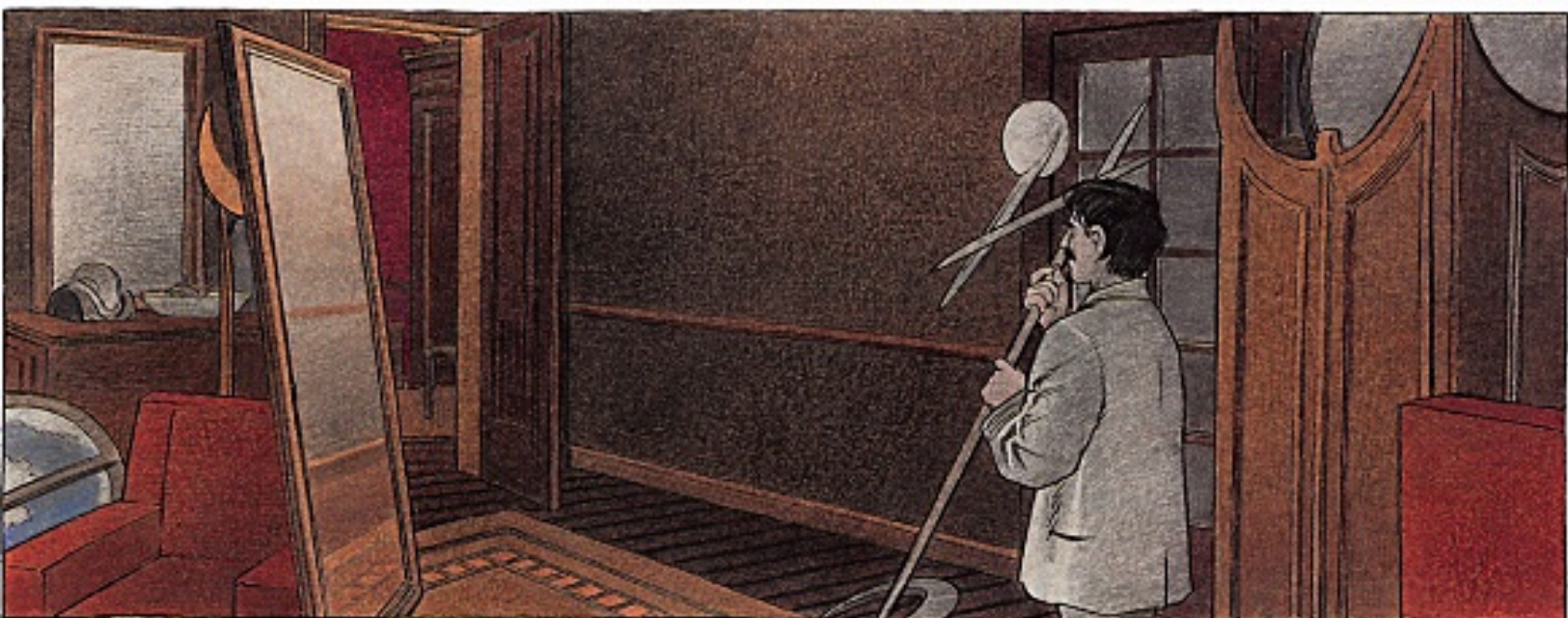
GOODBYE!

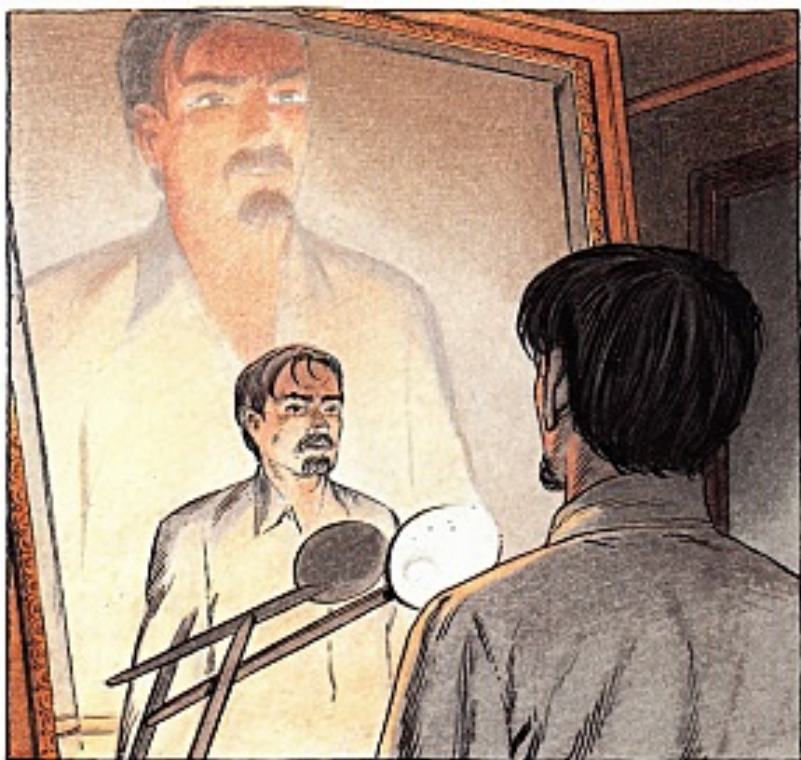


JUST SAY SOMETHING! IT'S INTOLERABLE!

YES... ESPECIALLY FOR ME!







WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

I'M ASHAMED OF YOU, ALBERT. I'M ASHAMED TO BE YOUR WIFE.

FIRST THE NIGHTMARES, THEN THIS LITTLE SPIEL WITH THE SHADOWS. YOU CAN'T JUST BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW WITH YOU!

I'M THE FIRST TO BE SORRY ABOUT IT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...

DO YOU REALISE THE HUMILIATION YOU JUST PUT ME THROUGH? THE WHOLE FAMILY MUST KNOW BY NOW!

THAT'S NOT THE REAL PROBLEM, SARAH! TRY TO BE A BIT MORE UNDERSTANDING!

UNDERSTANDING! I'VE BEEN TOO UNDERSTANDING! I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

AND JUST LOOK HOW YOU DRESS! YOU'RE REALLY ARE A SAD ACT. AND AS FOR ME, I'M 26, I WANT TO LIVE.

TO LIVE?

LISTEN ALBERT, I'M GIVING YOU EIGHT DAYS... AND IF BY THEN YOU'VE NOT SORTED OUT YOUR SILLY PROBLEMS, I'LL FILE FOR AN ANNULMENT.

I... ER... I REALLY HAVE TO GO! SEE YOU TONIGHT...



THERE'S NOTHING TO BE
DONE. HE MUST EXPLAIN
HIMSELF!

I HAVE TO SEE
DOCTOR VINCENT.
IT'S VERY URGENT.

I'M SORRY, SIR, MY HUSBAND
ISN'T SEEING PEOPLE TODAY,
AND CERTAINLY NOT HERE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE AN
APPOINTMENT.

LISTEN, MISS, MY WIFE WANTS TO
LEAVE ME, I DON'T DARE SHOW UP
AT THE OFFICE, SO I'M DEFINITELY
NOT IN THE MOOD TO WAIT TWO
WEEKS SO THAT...

WHAT'S UP, KITTEN?

ER... IT'S THIS
GENTLEMEN... ERM...

CHAMISSO, ALBERT CHAMISSO!

OH, IT'S YOU! SO NO MORE NIGHTMARES THEN?

NO, THEY'VE STOPPED... BUT YOUR
DRUGS MUST HAVE SOME BIZARRE
SIDE-EFFECTS... I...

POLYDORE!

POLYDORE!

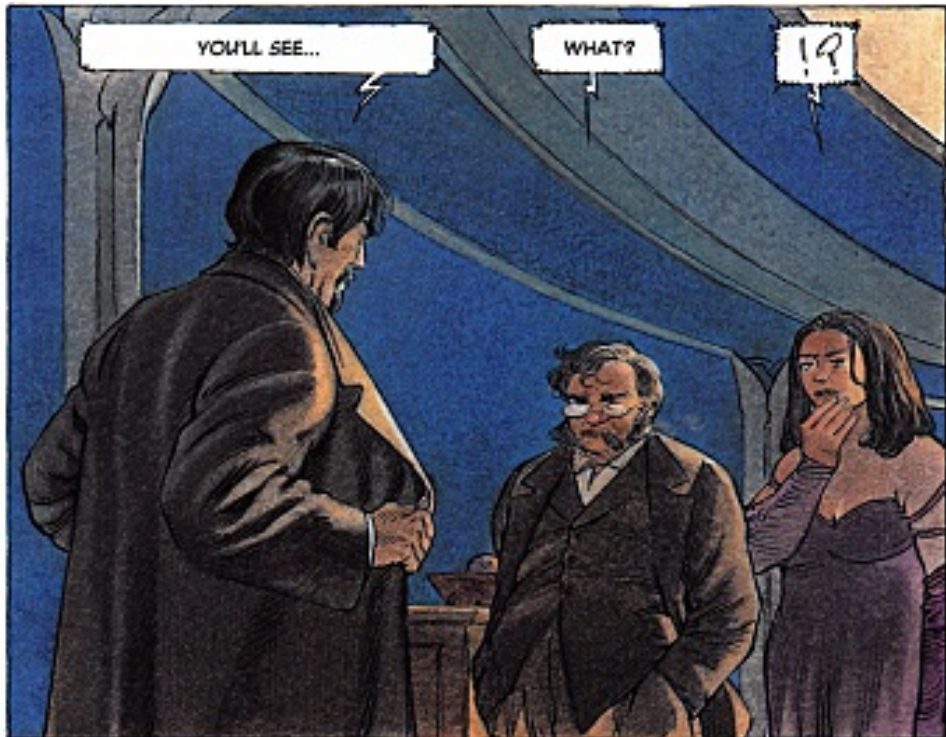
PEOPLE ARE BECOMING IMPOSSIBLE TO CARE FOR...
FORTUNATE I MADE YOU SIGN A RELEASE, EH?... WELL, WHAT
IS IT TODAY?



YOU'LL SEE...

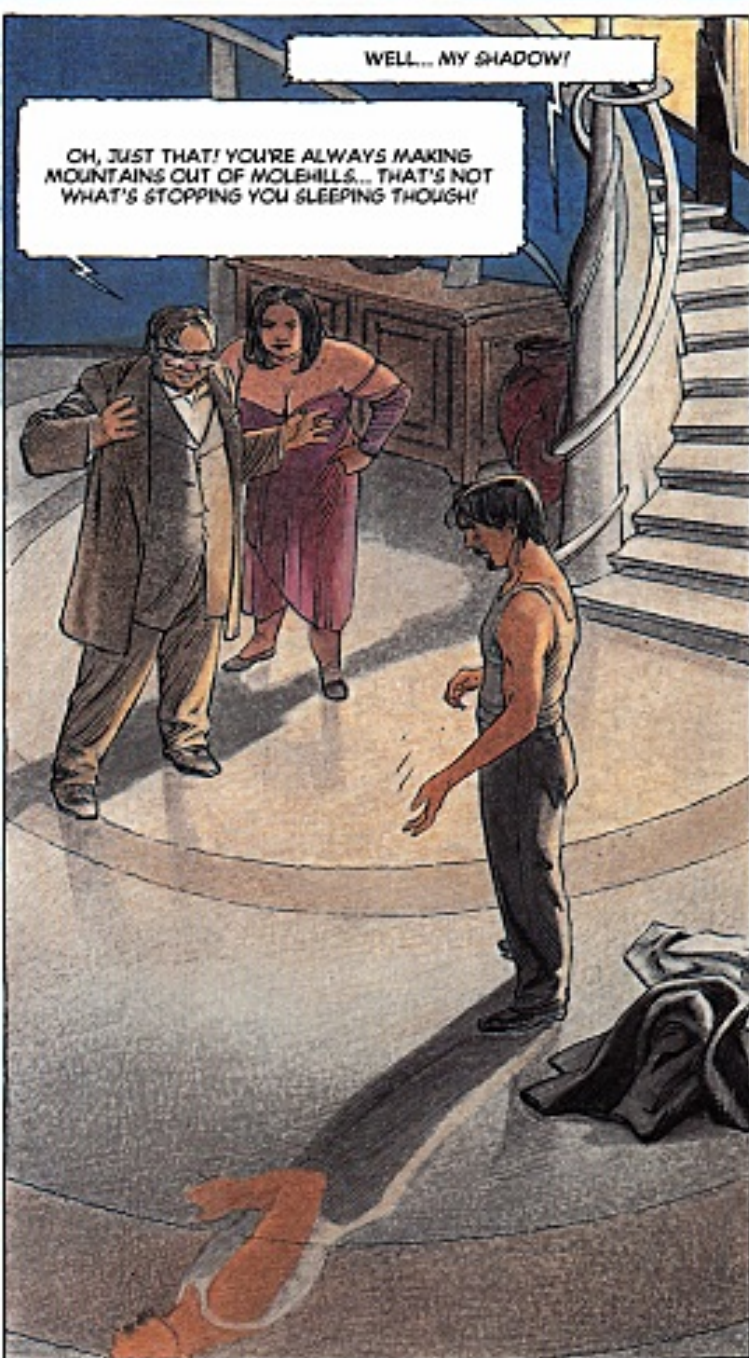
WHAT?

!?



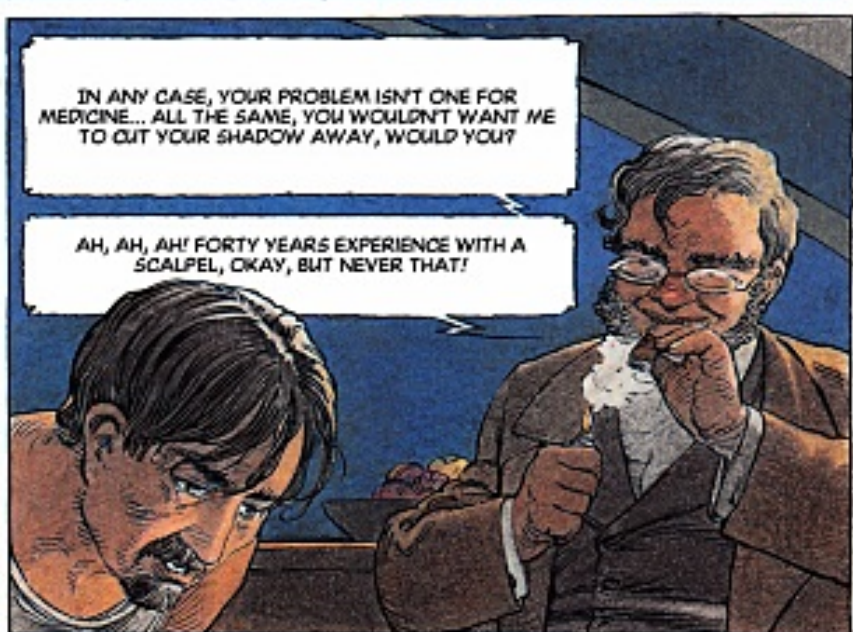
WELL... MY SHADOW!

OH, JUST THAT! YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING
MOUNTAINS OUT OF MOLEHILLS... THAT'S NOT
WHAT'S STOPPING YOU SLEEPING THOUGH!



IN ANY CASE, YOUR PROBLEM ISN'T ONE FOR
MEDICINE... ALL THE SAME, YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME
TO CUT YOUR SHADOW AWAY, WOULD YOU?

AH, AH, AH! FORTY YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH A
SCALPEL, OKAY, BUT NEVER THAT!



WHAT AM I SUPPOSED
TO DO THEN?

WELL I DON'T KNOW, DO I? GO SEE A
SAW-BONES, A HOMEOPATH, A
BIBLIOTHERAPIST!



LET'S NEVER FORGET, DEAR AUDIENCE: THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL MACHINES IS MAN, THE MOST NOBLE OF ALL INVENTIONS - THE HEART.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED, I STILL HAVE SOME COPIES OF MY "ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF TRANSPORT" LEFT!

HE'S NOT THE SAME MAN ANY MORE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S GETTING AT...

YES, HE SHOULD KNOW TO WIND IT UP IN TIME...

GOOD EVENING MR WAPPENDORF.

I REALLY LIKED YOUR SPEECH... ESPECIALLY THE CONCLUSION... YOU SEE, I...

YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT IN THE LIGHT, OLD CHAP... COME A BIT CLOSER!

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, RIGHT? WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM?

ER, WELL... IT'S A KIND OF...

AH YES. THAT MUCH I CAN SEE.

ALL THE SAME, IT'S AWFUL! DON'T TAKE IT BADLY, SIR, EVERY TIME SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENS, A PHENOMENON NO-ONE ELSE CAN EXPLAIN, THEY SEND THEM TO ME... I'VE SEEN IT ALL, SIR: HOLES IN SPACE-TIME, SPONTANEOUS LEVITATIONS, LEANING CHILDREN...

BUT YOUR SHADOW IS QUITE EXCEPTIONAL... IS IT EVEN A SHADOW? IS IT A MISUSE OF LANGUAGE TO NAME IT SO? IT'S NOT A REFLECTION, NOT AN XRAY... BUT A KIND OF PROJECTION...

YOUR SHADOW, SIR, BEHAVES AS IF YOU WERE TRANSPARENT!

TRANSPARENT...



AND, MY HAND, YOU SEE, JUST
CASTS A PLAIN OLD SHADOW,
IF I MAY SAY SO.



NOT TO FLATTER YOU, THIS
PREDICAMENT IS REMARK-
ABLE. I WOULD LIKE VERY
MUCH TO PRESENT YOU TO
SOME COLLEAGUES. I'VE GOT
TO GO TO A CONFERENCE
SOON... WE'D BRING THE
HOUSE DOWN, US TWO...

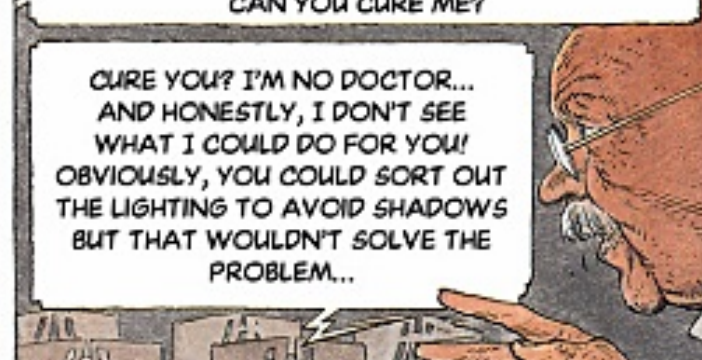
NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT...



THINK ABOUT IT, SIR, I COULD
MAKE YOU FAMOUS!

OUT OF THE QUESTION.
WHAT I WANT IS
EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE:
DISCRETION...

IN THAT
CASE...



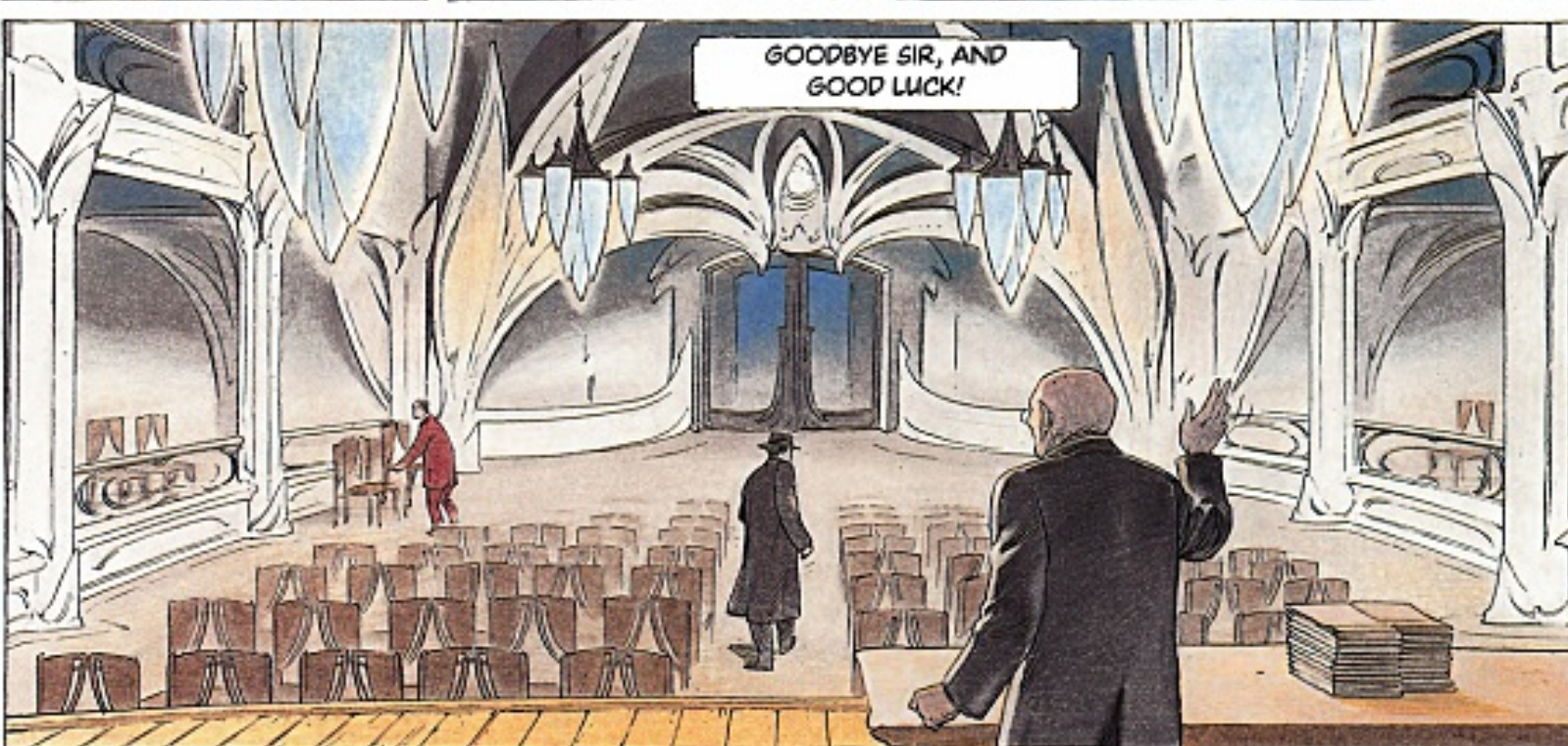
BUT WHAT CAN I DO, PROFESSOR,
CAN YOU CURE ME?

CURE YOU? I'M NO DOCTOR...
AND HONESTLY, I DON'T SEE
WHAT I COULD DO FOR YOU!
OBVIOUSLY, YOU COULD SORT OUT
THE LIGHTING TO AVOID SHADOWS
BUT THAT WOULDN'T SOLVE THE
PROBLEM...

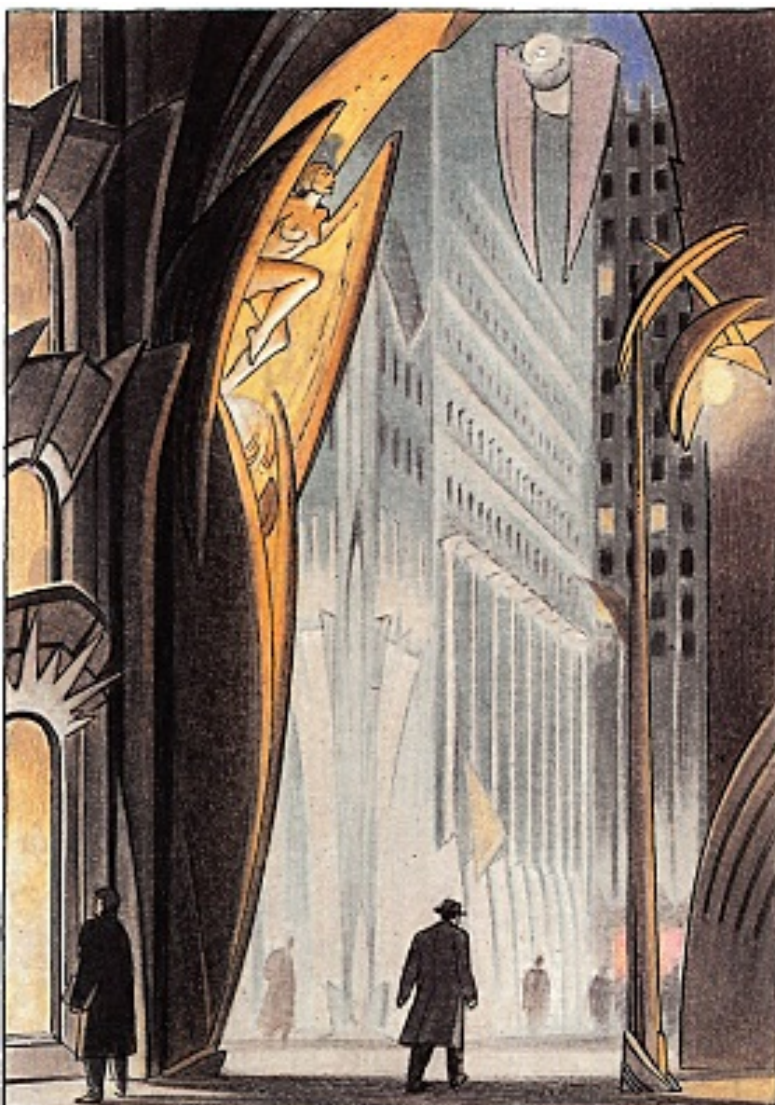


NO I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL
YOU, I AM VERY SORRY...

I AM TOO.



GOODBYE SIR, AND
GOOD LUCK!





HELLO MR CHAMISSO... ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?

YES, YES, THANK YOU!



AH, THERE YOU ARE DEAR COLLEAGUE, WE THOUGHT WE'D NEVER BE SEEING YOU AGAIN...



COME ON NOW, TAKE OFF YOUR COAT, IT MAKES YOU LOOK SO SOLEMN.

I... I MEAN... I'M A BIT COLD...



HAVE YOU SEEN, WE'VE HAD NEW LAMPS PUT IN... A LOT BETTER, DON'T YOU THINK?



AH, YOU'RE BACK, CHAMISSO! THE DIRECTOR WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU. IMMEDIATELY.

AND YOUR WIFE, HOW IS SHE?

ER... WELL... VERY WELL, DO YOU KNOW WHY THE DIRECTOR WANTS TO SEE ME?

I'VE BROUGHT YOU CHAMISSO, DIRECTOR!

HAVE HIM COME CLOSER!

SO, CHAMISSO, WHAT'S UP? EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT YOU, AND ALWAYS ABOUT THE SAME THING. IT SEEMS THAT FOR SOME WEEKS, YOU'VE GIVEN US ALL A HARD TIME...

I... I'M SORRY, SIR, IT'S A BAD TIME... AN ADAPTATION PERIOD... I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME.

YOUR LITTLE PROBLEMS DON'T INTEREST ME, CHAMISSO. BUT IT'S NECESSARY TO FACE THINGS HEAD ON: YOU'RE SEVERELY DAMAGING THE COMPANY'S IMAGE.

I ASSURE YOU...

NO, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE 'ASSURING' ANYTHING ELSE EVER AGAIN, NO HOUSES, NO CARS, NOTHING! YOU'RE FIRED!

BUT, IT CAN'T BE... I HAVE MY MEDICAL POLICY... THERE'S A DISABILITY CLAUSE...

DISABILITY? COME OFF IT! REREAD YOUR CONTRACTS, CHAMISSO! SHADOWS HAVE NEVER BEEN COVERED... WHERE WOULD WE BE IF WE HAD TO PAY OUT FOR EVERYTHING! FROM WHAT THEY TOLD ME, YOU WERE TOUGHER WHEN IT WAS ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE!



...YES SIR, IT'S BEEN THIRTEEN YEARS NOW THAT I'VE WORKED FOR ASSURANCES GÉNÉRALES! THIRTEEN YEARS I'VE GIVEN THEM EVERYTHING, WITHOUT CLAIMING MY DAYS OFF, WITHOUT GETTING MY OVERTIME!



IN SNOW, WIND AND RAIN, I FOUGHT TO DEFEND MY CASES! I EARN'T THEM MONEY!



WHY'D I DO ALL THAT, I ASK YOU?

YOU SEEM RATHER ANIMATED?



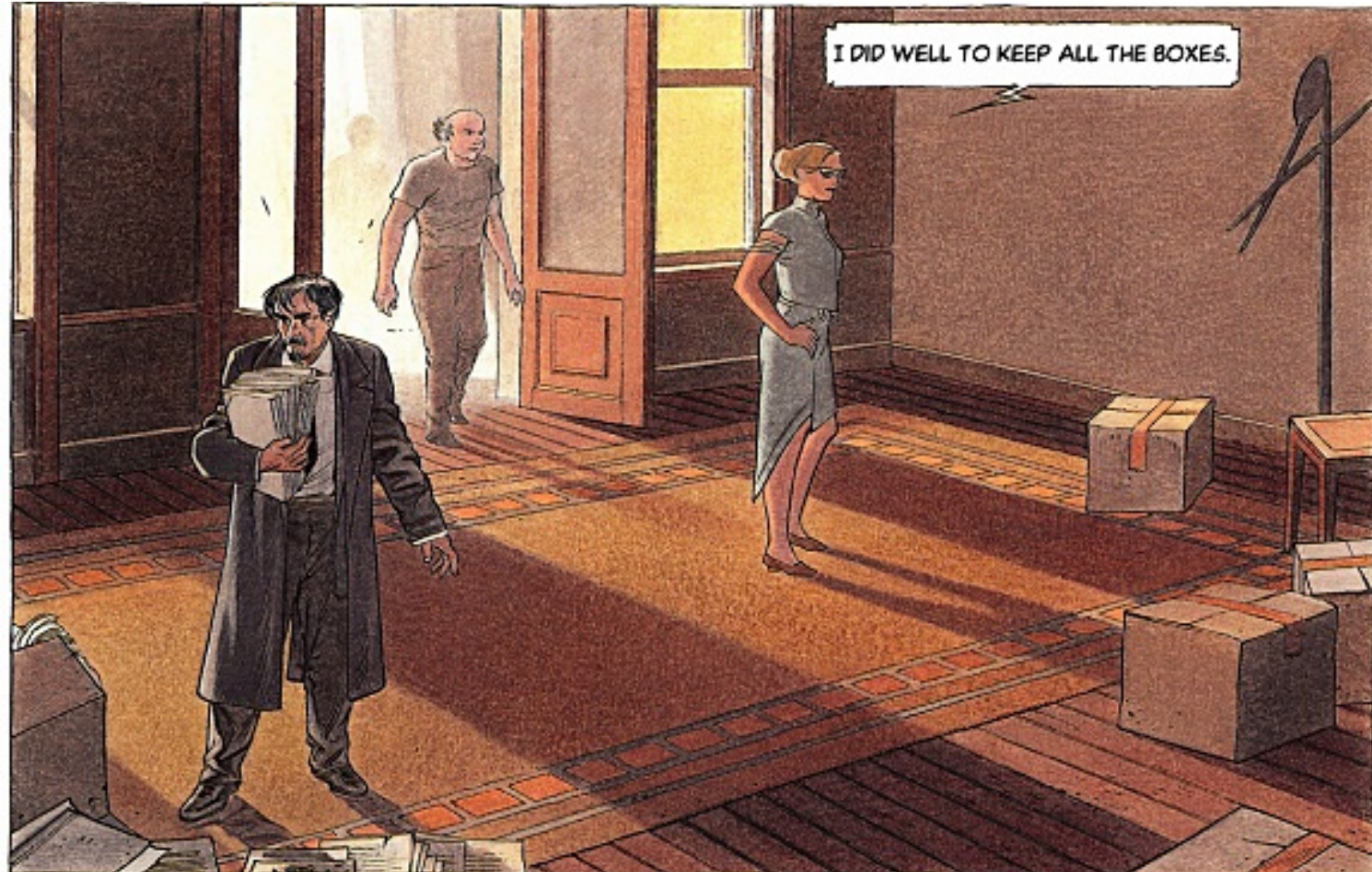
CAREFUL, IT'S VERY FRAGILE!

THAT'LL BE THREE POUNDS FIFTY!



BUT, SARAH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU CAN SEE, CAN'T YOU? IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS.



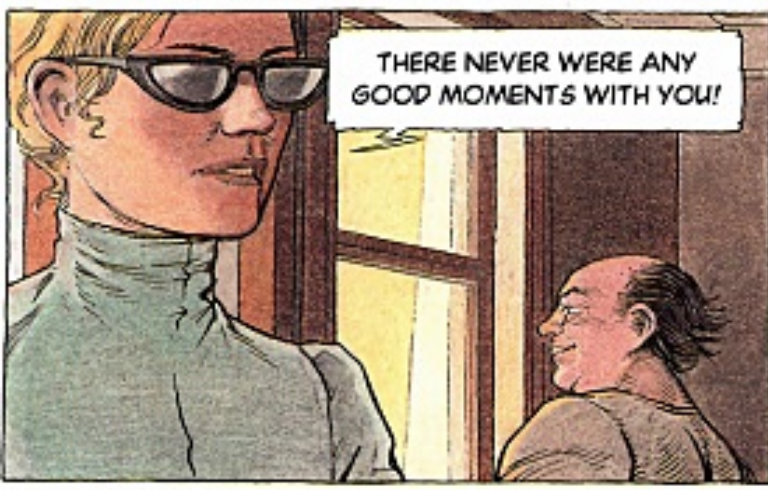
I DID WELL TO KEEP ALL THE BOXES.



YOU DO UNDERSTAND...
YOU'RE LEAVING ME AT
THE WORST POSSIBLE
MOMENT...

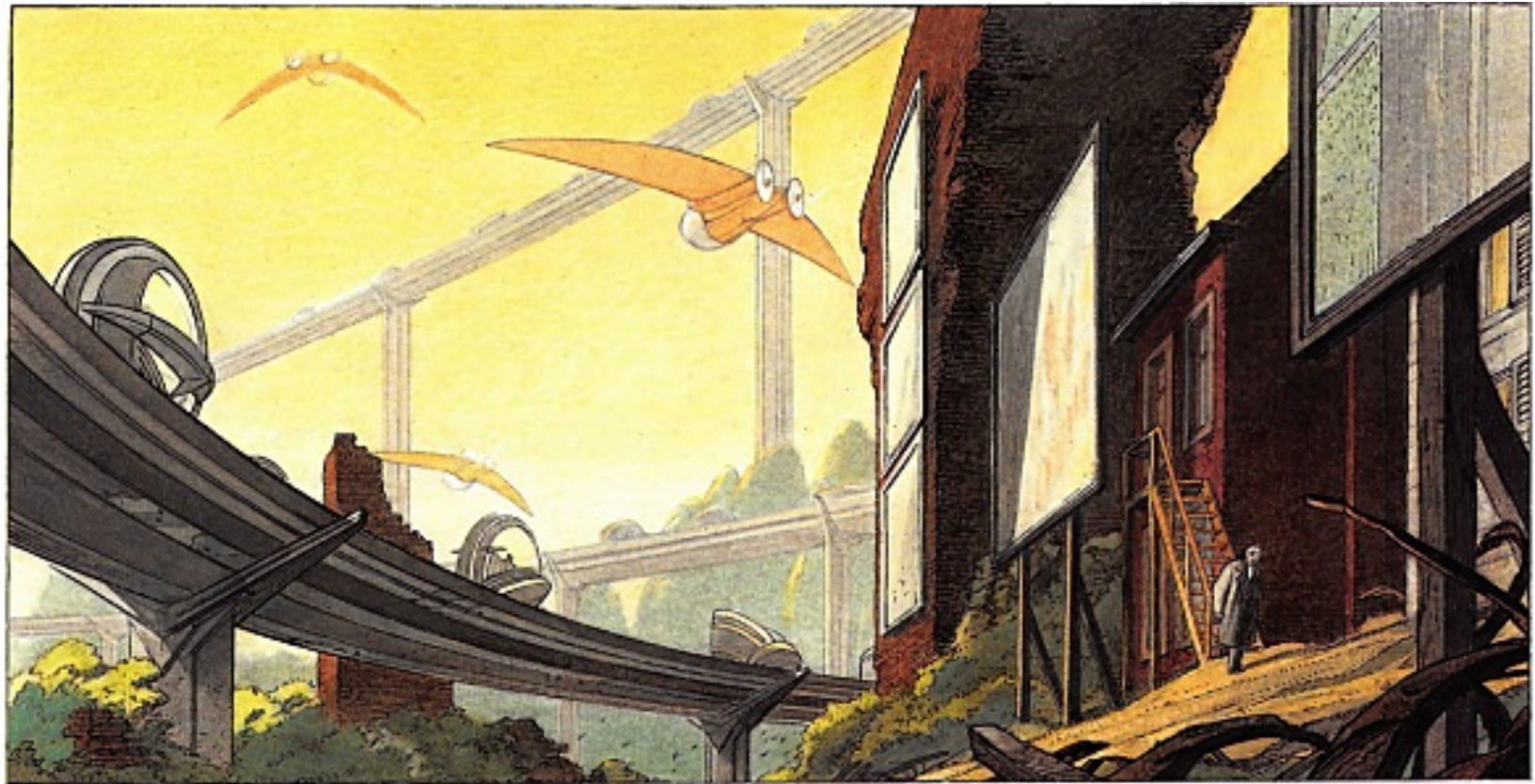


LET'S BE GETTING ON, GENTLEMEN. I'VE ALREADY
WASTED ENOUGH TIME IN THIS PLACE! I'LL SEE YOU
ON HELIOTROPE AVENUE.



THERE NEVER WERE ANY
GOOD MOMENTS WITH YOU!







YOU SHOULDN'T STAY THERE,
BELIEVE ME!

GOODBYE, MRS SOLANGE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW....



WHAT...



LITTLE BASTARDS...

AH, AH, AH!!



ARE YOU HURT? CAN I HELP YOU?

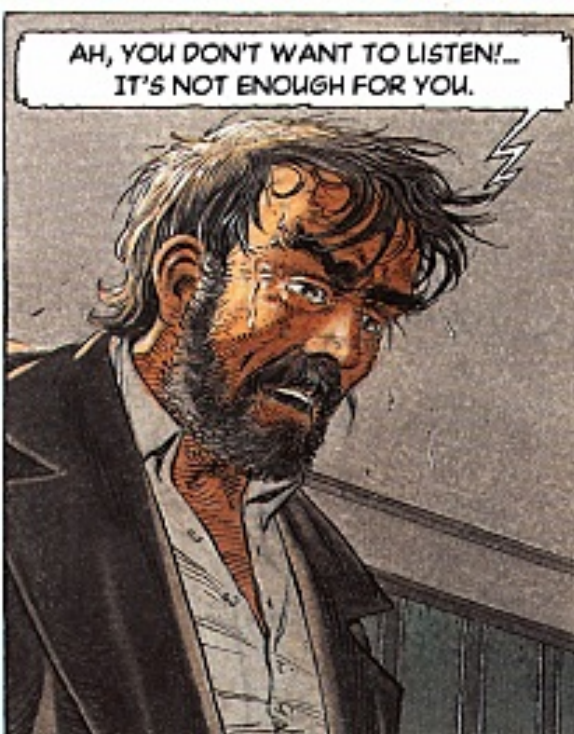
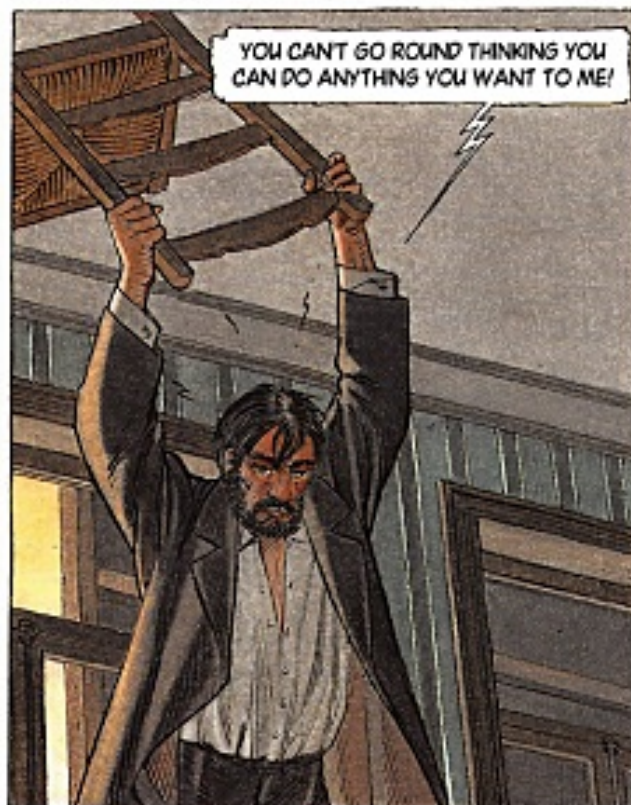
NO, NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT!



I DON'T NEED ANYONE.



MR ALBERT! MR ALBERT! WAIT!





YOU BASTARD,
YOU'LL SEE WHO'S
STRONGER.



SO ARE YOU HAPPY NOW? GOT WHAT YOU WANTED?



YOU WANT MORE?
GO AHEAD AND SAY IT!!!

CALL THE POLICE, HE'S
GONE MAD!

POOR MAN, ALWAYS
AT HOME ALONE... IT'S
NOT HEALTHY.

I KNEW WE'D HAVE
PROBLEMS WITH HIM.



THERE YOU GO, SEE!



AND THAT, DID YOU LIKE THAT?

WHEN'RE THEY GONNA
TEAR THAT
DUMP DOWN?

AND THAT OLD BRIDGE THAT
RUINS OUR VIEW!



IT WAS SO PEACEFUL HERE. THIS
GUY JUST HAD TO TURN UP...

I'M LOOKING FOR MR CHAMISSO,
ALBERT CHAMISSO.

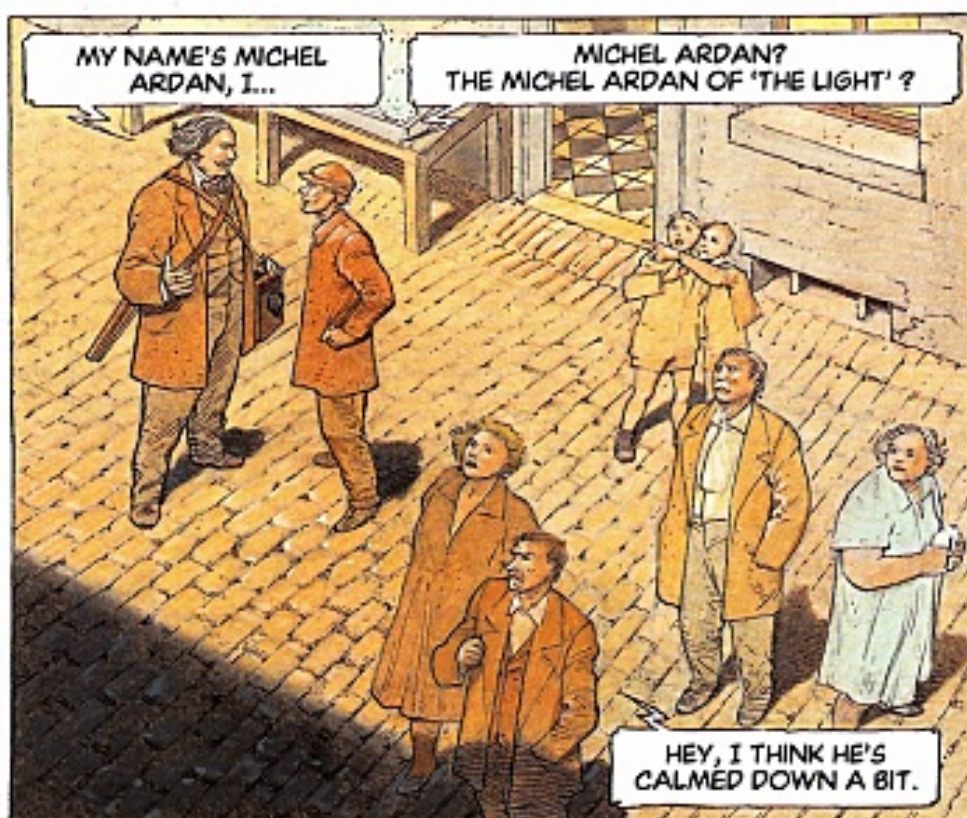
AH, YOU'VE COME JUST IN TIME! I
CAN TELL YOU THAT HE'LL NOT BE
STAYING HERE LONG, THAT ONE!



I'M GONNA CHUCK HIM OUT FOR GOOD!
HE'S ONLY PAID HALF THE RENT.

LISTEN, PERHAPS WE COULD REACH AN AGREEMENT?

AGREEMENT? YEAH, RIGHT.
WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?



MY NAME'S MICHEL
ARDAN, I...

MICHEL ARDAN?
THE MICHEL ARDAN OF 'THE LIGHT'?

HEY, I THINK HE'S
CALMED DOWN A BIT.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME! I WASN'T MYSELF...



BUT I ASK MYSELF, WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUCH A BORING MAN LIKE ME? WHAT DO YOU SEE IN ME?



I'M FLAT, EMPTY, TRANSPARENT, AND I'VE NEVER WANTED, DECIDED, OR SAID ANYTHING NOTEWORTHY.



NO CHARACTER... EVEN MY MOTHER SAID THAT...
EVEN MY MARRIAGE WAS A FIASCO...



AT LEAST I HAVE YOU! OTHERWISE...







WELL, SOME PEOPLE
LIKE TO BE NOTICED!



I'D LOVE TO KNOW WHO
SHE WAS TALKING TO...



RIGHT, COME ON! NOW I KNOW
WHAT I'LL TELL THEM.

DEAR SIRs OF ASSURANCES GÉNÉRALES,
BE ON YOUR GUARD! I WAS ON YOUR SIDE,
I SUPPORTED YOU WITH ALL MY MIGHT!
NOW I AM AGAINST YOU AND I WILL SUFFER NO
MORE. I KNOW YOUR TRICKS AND YOUR
INTRIGUES, BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, AT THAT.



RIGHT...
WHERE
WAS I?

I DENOUNCE THEM: THE SCANDALOUS,
SMALL-PRINT CLAUSES, GREY ON WHITE PAPER,
SO NO-ONE CAN READ THEM...



I AM DISGUSTED BY THE PAYOUTS WHICH ARE, WITHOUT THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE POLICYHOLDER, PRACTICALLY HALVED...



I RAIL AGAINST THE
HUGE DEDUCTIBLES
DEMANDED IN MOST
CASES...



HOW MANY CASUALTIES,
HOW MANY DASHED
HOPES AND DESTROYED
LIVES LIE IN THE WAKE OF
ASSURANCES
GÉNÉRALES?!



I SAY OPENLY: THE
GREAT RESPECTED
INSURANCE COMPANY IS
ONE OF THE WORST
SCOURGES OF OUR
SOCIETY!



ALL THAT WE HAVE
SUFFERED SO FAR, WE
MUST TODAY...



PRETTY HEAVY,
THIS STUFF!



CAREFUL!
IT'S FRAGILE.

WHAT IS THIS,
ARDAN?

WASN'T EASY FINDING YOU! HAD TO USE
ALL MY WITS... NO-ONE AT ASSURANCES
GÉNÉRALES HAD YOUR ADDRESS. BUT I
JUST HAD TO SEE THIS THING WITH THE
SHADOW FOR MYSELF!

ANYWAY,
YOU'VE CERTAINLY CHANGED! GOT A
REAL DISTINGUISHED BEARD NOW... I'D
LOVE TO IMMORTALISE IT ON MY
PLATES.

DID YOU KNOW THAT, WITHOUT MY HELP,
YOU'D HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT OF HERE? I
DON'T WANT TO GO INTO DETAIL, BUT YOU
SHOULD BE GRATEFUL! EVEN THOUGH IT WAS
ONLY RIGHT, YOU HELPED ME SO MUCH BACK
THEN WITH MY ACCIDENT...

MOST FACES NOWADAYS ARE
COMPLETELY FEATURELESS... WHERE
ARE THE ROBICKS, THE DERSÉVALS,
THE WAPPENDORFS?

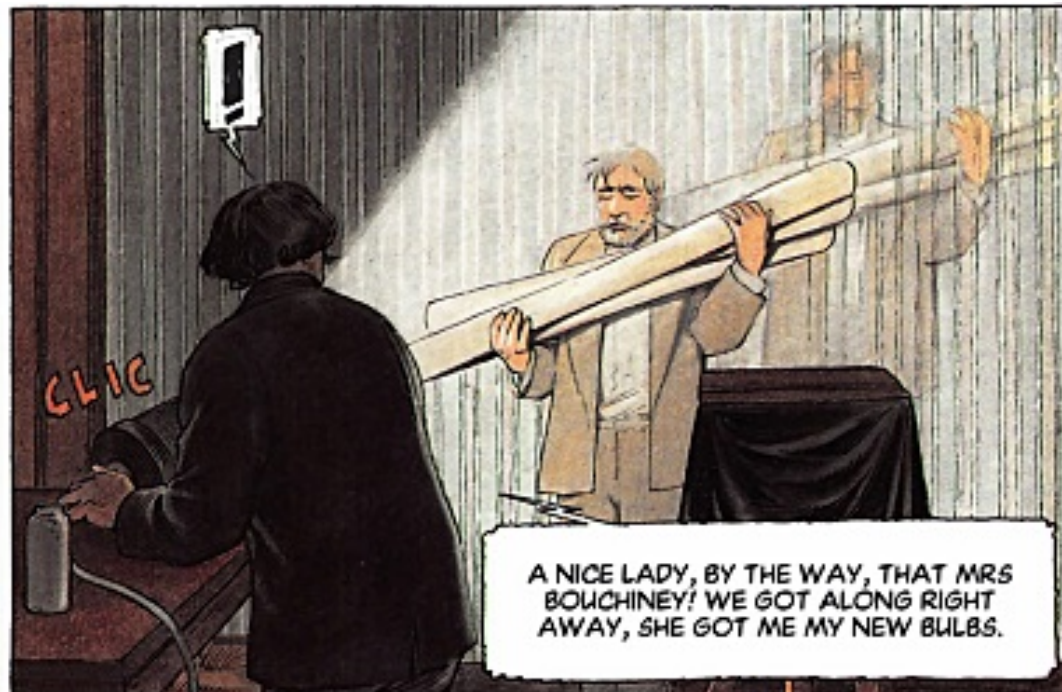
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU WANT, BUT...

RIGHT. NOW THE BACKGROUND...

WHAT FOR?



CLIC



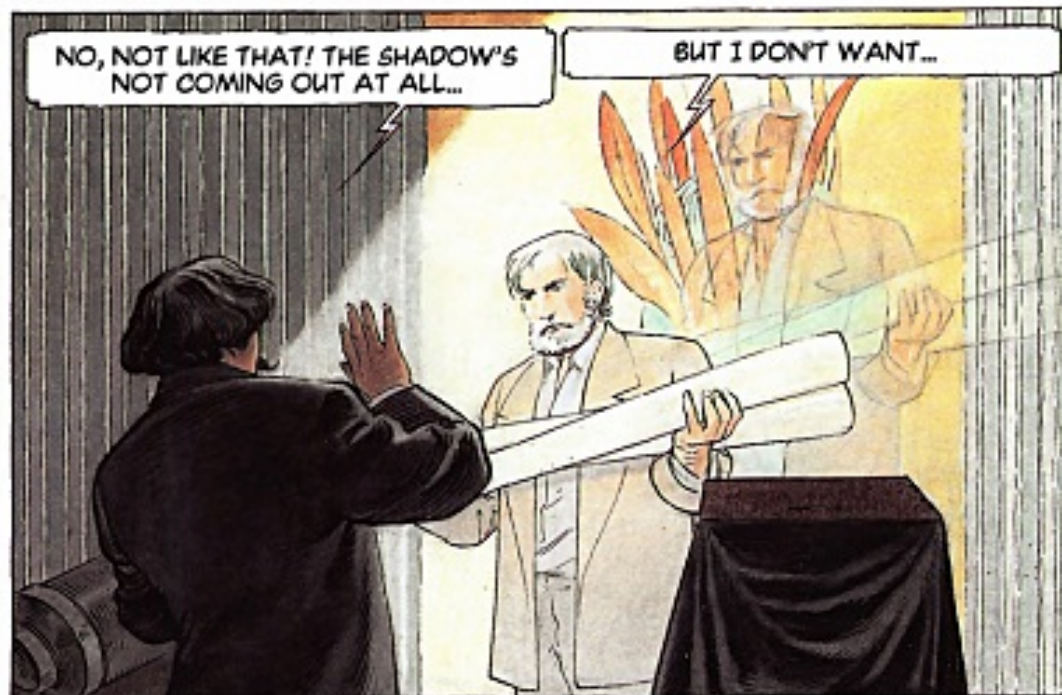
A NICE LADY, BY THE WAY, THAT MRS BOUCHINEY! WE GOT ALONG RIGHT AWAY, SHE GOT ME MY NEW BULBS.

FOR "THE LIGHT", BULBS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, OF COURSE.



NO, NOT LIKE THAT! THE SHADOW'S NOT COMING OUT AT ALL...

BUT I DON'T WANT...



WE NEED SOMETHING MORE SIMPLE... MAYBE THIS.



HOLD IT UP!... YES, VERY GOOD, THAT'LL WORK.

WHAT?



NO, MR. ARDAN. I DON'T
WANT TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED!

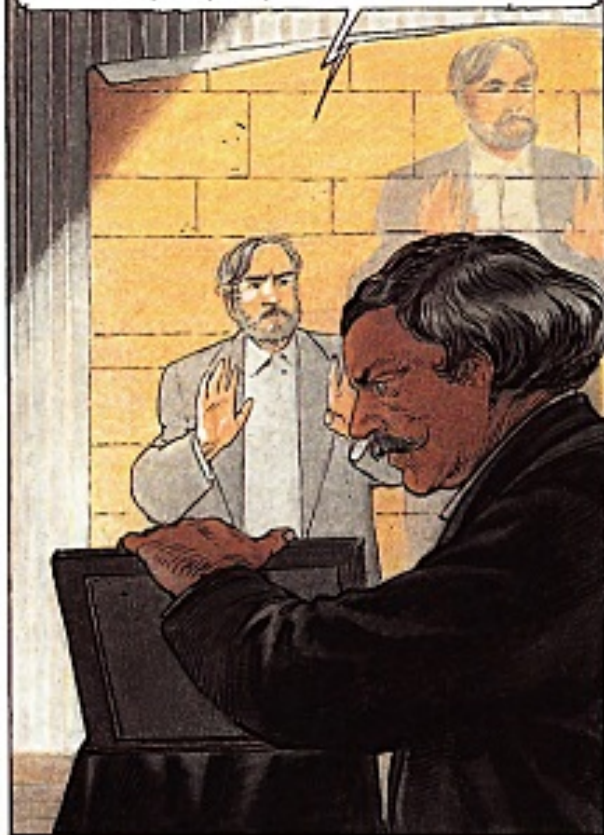


MY SHADOW IS MY
BUSINESS ALONE.

HMMM...



NO, NO, NO, THAT'S ENOUGH!



OKAY, OKAY. I WON'T BOTHER YOU ANY
FURTHER. I'M ALREADY GONE! SHOULD I
LEAVE YOU THE SCREENS?



WHAT IS HE THINKING?
I'M NOT A SIDESHOW!
AND IT COULD HURT MY LAWSUIT...









TRICK? ER...

WELL, YOUR
LITTLE STUNT!

OH YES... THAT'S NOT SO EASY...
WELL IT'S...

YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME YOUR
SECRET, OF COURSE. WELL THAT'S
NOT WHY I'VE COME, YOU COULD DO
ME A FAVOUR, AND WE THEATRE
PEOPLE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER...

PLEASE EXCUSE THE MESS,
IT'S NOT USUALLY LIKE THIS.

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! MY PLACE
LOOKS LIKE THIS TOO. ALL THE REHEARS-
ALS AND PERFORMANCES, YOU KNOW...

WHERE'S
YOUR ACT?

I'M IN THE "VARIETY" AT THE
MOMENT, MORE LIGHT
ENTERTAINMENT REALLY.
BUT TOMORROW I HAVE AN
IMPORTANT AUDITION:
MILENA IN "THE TOWER" A
GREAT ROLE!

NORMALLY I WORK ALONE,
BUT WITH A DIALOGUE, THAT'S NOT SO EASY.
SO I THOUGHT YOU COULD GIVE ME MY CUES.

BUT I...

I KNOW, YOU DON'T HAVE GIOVANNI'S
STATURE... BUT THE BEARD AND THE
UNKEMPT HAIR...

THESE SCREENS AREN'T BAD...
LET'S PUT THEM UP, TO GET US IN THE RIGHT MOOD!



ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO TELL ME
YOU'RE NOT IN THE BUSINESS?



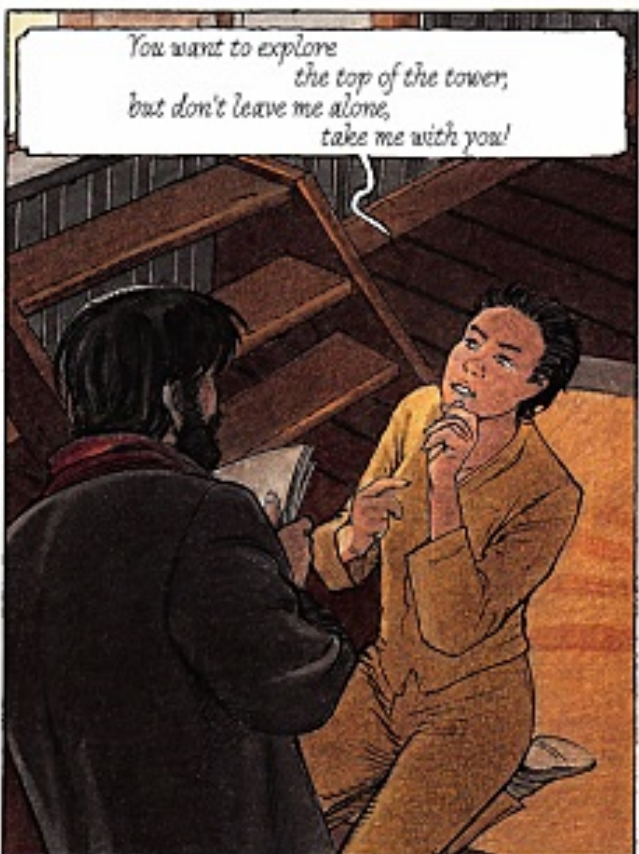
RIGHT, LET'S START WITH SCENE 4,
GIOVANNI'S ABSORBED IN AN OLD BOOK,
MILENA ENTERS, COMPLETELY BESIDE HERSELF...



*Giovanni, I know it,
you will leave soon,...*



*You want to explore
the top of the tower,
but don't leave me alone,
take me with you!*



MILENA, YOU FOOL, ELIAS WON'T ALLOW IT!



NOT LIKE THAT!
THAT'S NOT
GIOVANNI, HE
LIKES THIS GIRL...

ER... BUT...

FROM THE TOP!



Milena, you fool, Elias won't allow it.

But Elias is not my father,
you know that.
And I love you,
don't you understand that?



It would be for the best if you stayed here, Milena...



NOT BAD AT
ALL, WHEN I
THINK WHAT
TROUBLE WE'RE
HAVING AT THE
THEATRE.



You're so young, and I'm so old...

UNBELIEVABLE,
YOU'RE A QUICK
STUDY!



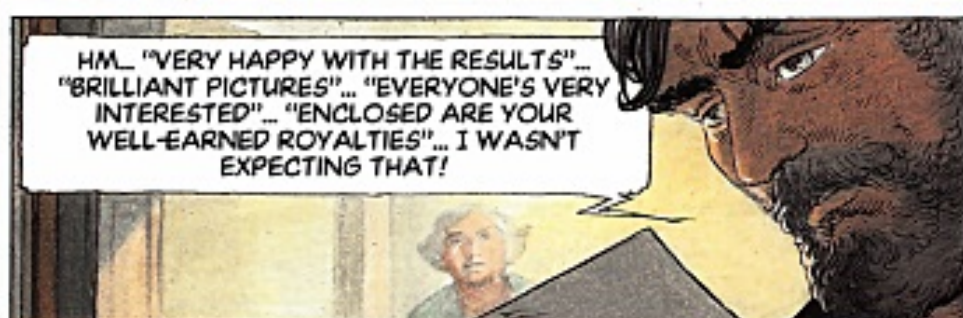
OH NO, I HAVE TO GO! OR
I'LL BE LATE!

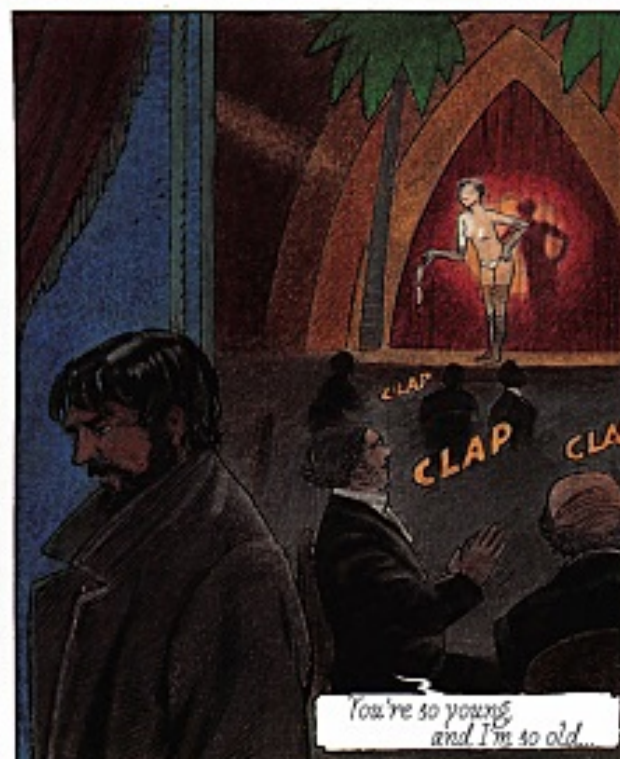
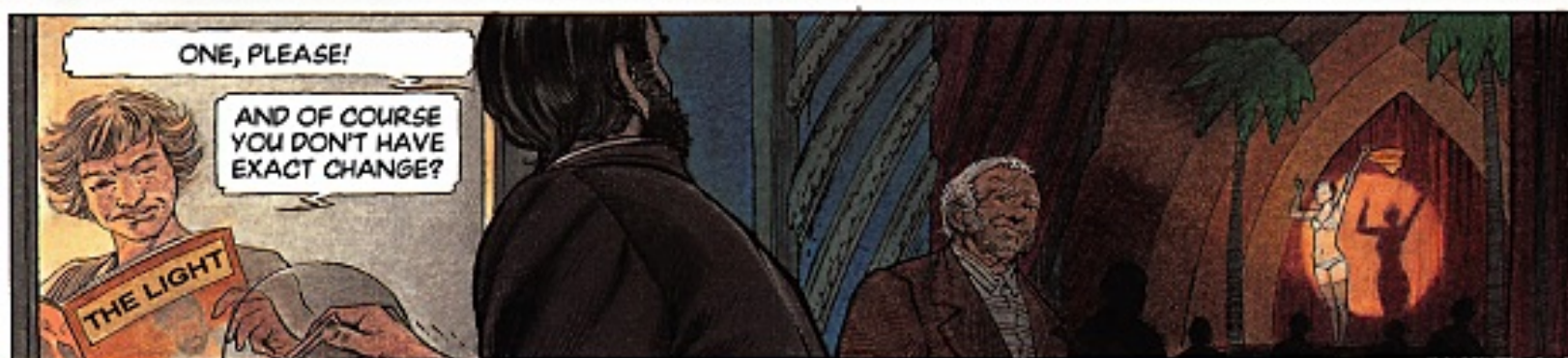
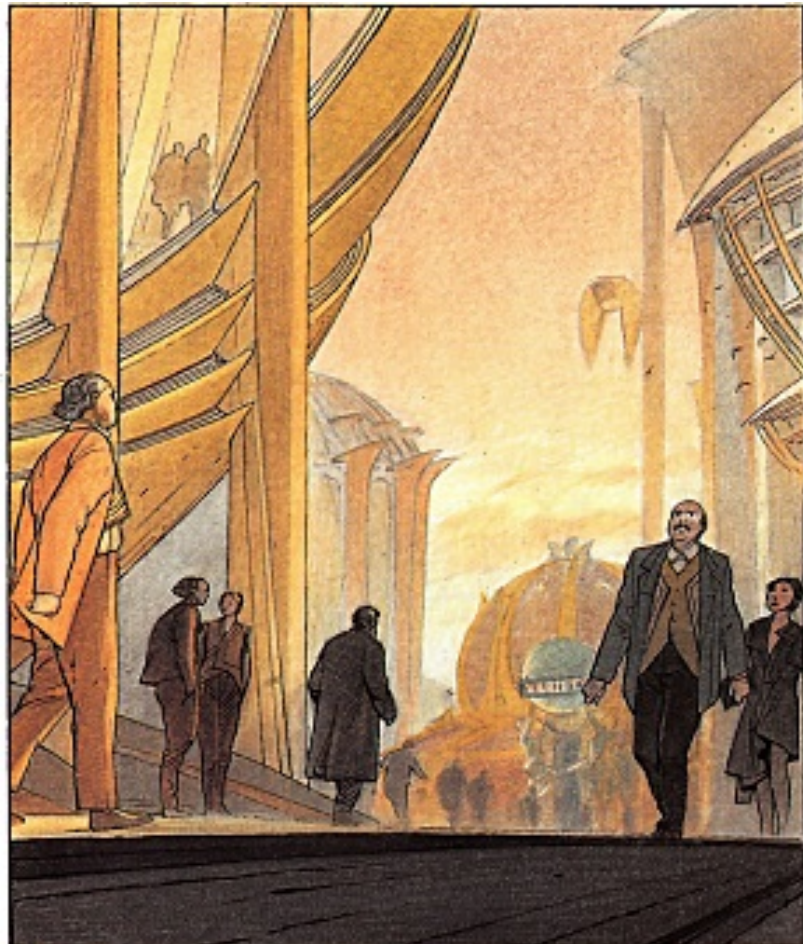
ALREADY? ...
WHAT A SHAME.

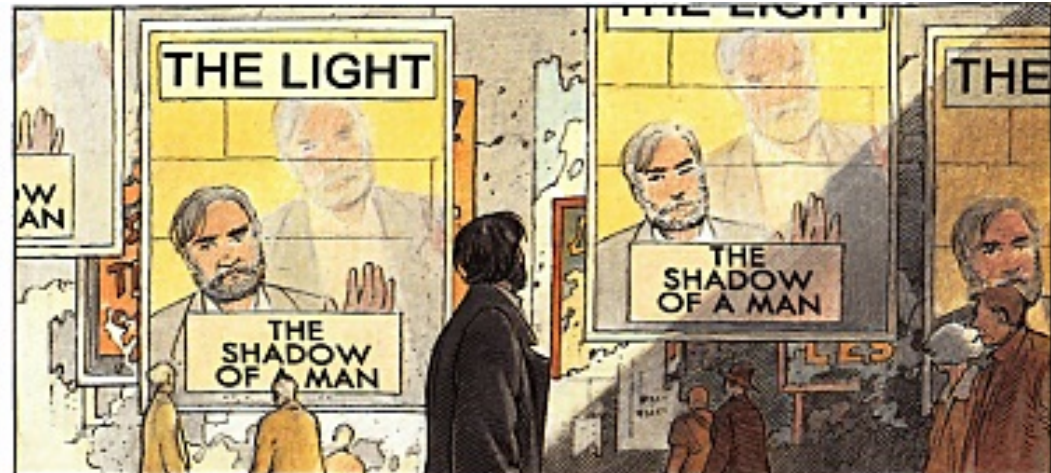


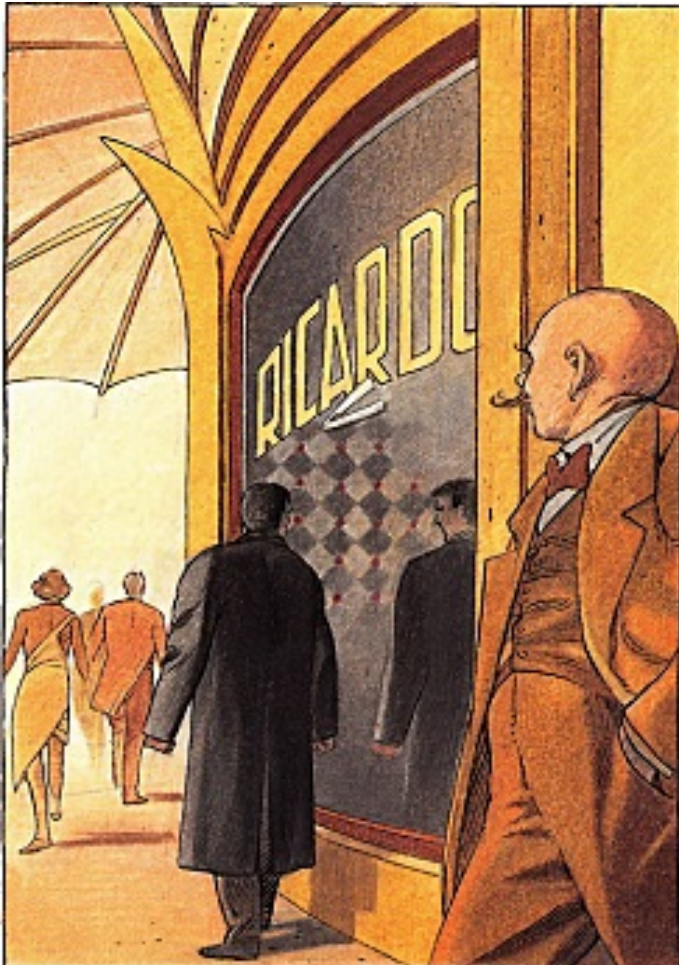
You're so young, and I'm so old...













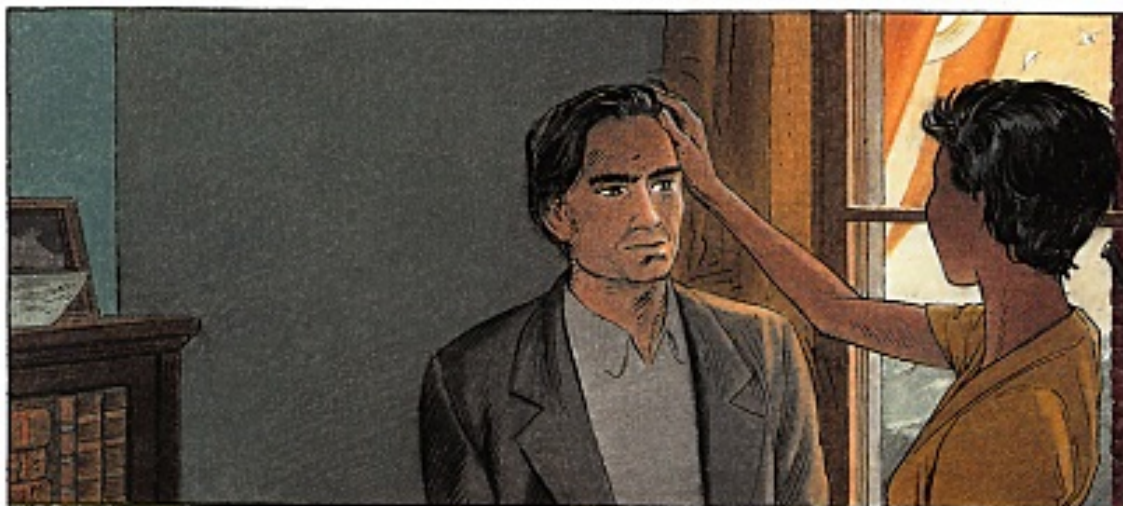
ER... GOOD EVENING, MINNA.
YOU FORGOT YOUR SCRIPT...



ALBERT...?



WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU?



WELL... I DO LIKE IT... BUT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DID IT
NOW, WHEN EVERYONE KNOWS
YOUR FACE...



THAT'S JUST WHY... I...

YOU HAVE TO TAKE YOUR
CHANCES... NOW OR NEVER! IF
YOU START A SHOW NOW IT'LL
BE A HUGE SUCCESS.

BUT I CAN'T DO THAT,
MINNA!

YOU CAN, YOU HAVE TALENT, I
SAW IT RIGHT AWAY... AND I'LL
HELP YOU.

DO IT FOR ME! I'VE BEEN
WAITING MY WHOLE LIFE FOR A
CHANCE LIKE THIS! I DON'T
WANT TO SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE
IN THAT DAMN
CABARET!



YOU REALLY ARE A
STRANGE MAN. SO
DIFFERENT TO ALL
THE OTHERS.

SO? AGREED?

I... ER... WELL, OKAY.

NO MATTER, YOUR SHADOW AND I,
WE'LL GO DOWN A STORM!
BUT I THINK YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND
YOURSELF A STAGE NAME... ALBERT,
THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT.





BRILLIANT,
WASN'T IT?

YES, THANKS FOR THE
INVI- TATION.

THAT WAS THE BEST
SHADOW PLAY I'VE EVER
SEEN. A FEW TIMES IT EVEN
GAVE ME GOOSEBUMPS.

SARAH, I'D LIKE TO ASK
YOU TO DINNER. I'VE
BOOKED A TABLE AT THE
"DELPHINIUM".

MAX
&
MINNA
EXTENDED

REALLY, SINCLAIR, I'VE
SEEN THE SHOW THREE
TIMES ALREADY, AND I
STILL DON'T GET HOW HE
DOES IT! HE'S FANTASTIC!

THE "DELPHINIUM",
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

WHO IS THIS MAX? WHERE DOES HE COME FROM?

A COMPLETE
MYSTERY... NO-ONE
KNOWS ANYTHING...

HE'S FROM A SMALL SCHOOL,
NEVER PART OF A TROUPE...

THE WOMAN WAS A DANCER
AT A CABARET. THAT'S ALL
WE KNOW FOR SURE.

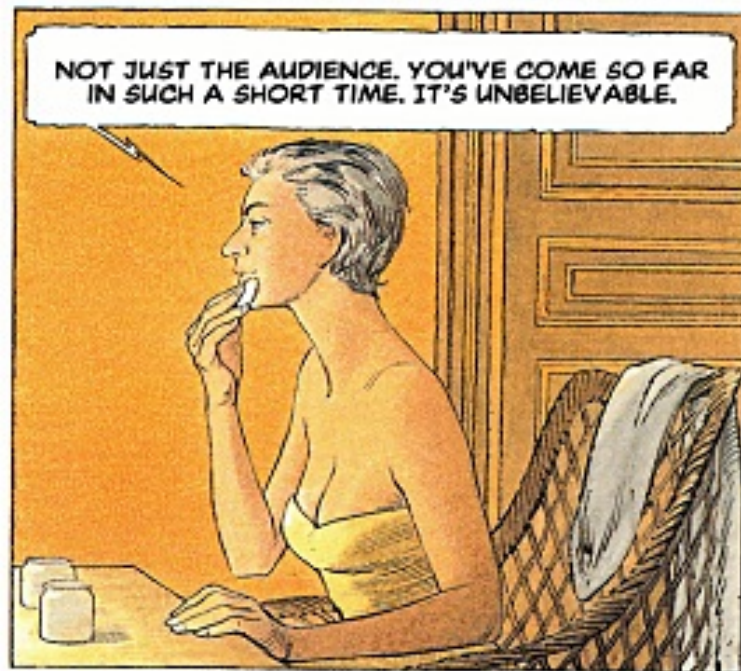
SEE? NO-ONE NOTICES US ANYMORE.

YES, IT'S OVER FOR US!
TIME TO RETIRE, I THINK...

THE AUDIENCE WAS FANTASTIC.
I THINK THAT WAS ONE OF OUR BEST NIGHTS YET...

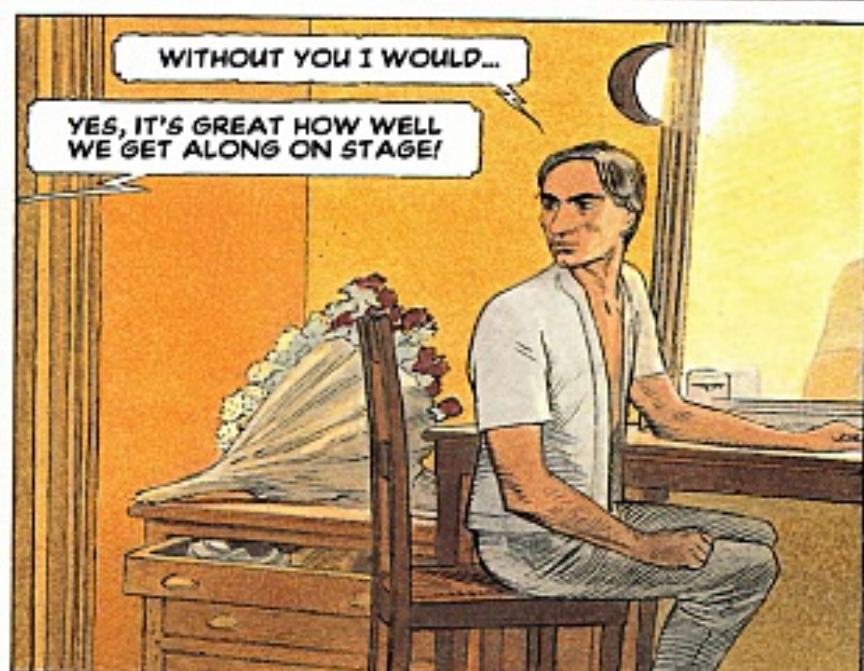


NOT JUST THE AUDIENCE. YOU'VE COME SO FAR
IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. IT'S UNBELIEVABLE.



WITHOUT YOU I WOULD...

YES, IT'S GREAT HOW WELL
WE GET ALONG ON STAGE!



JUST ON STAGE?



DON'T BE LIKE THAT... WHY DON'T YOU COME HELP ME OUT OF THIS!



HM... NOT SO EASY...



SOME
CHAMPAGNE,
MY DEAR?

NOW?... WHY
NOT LATER?



IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE
OUT OF PRACTICE...



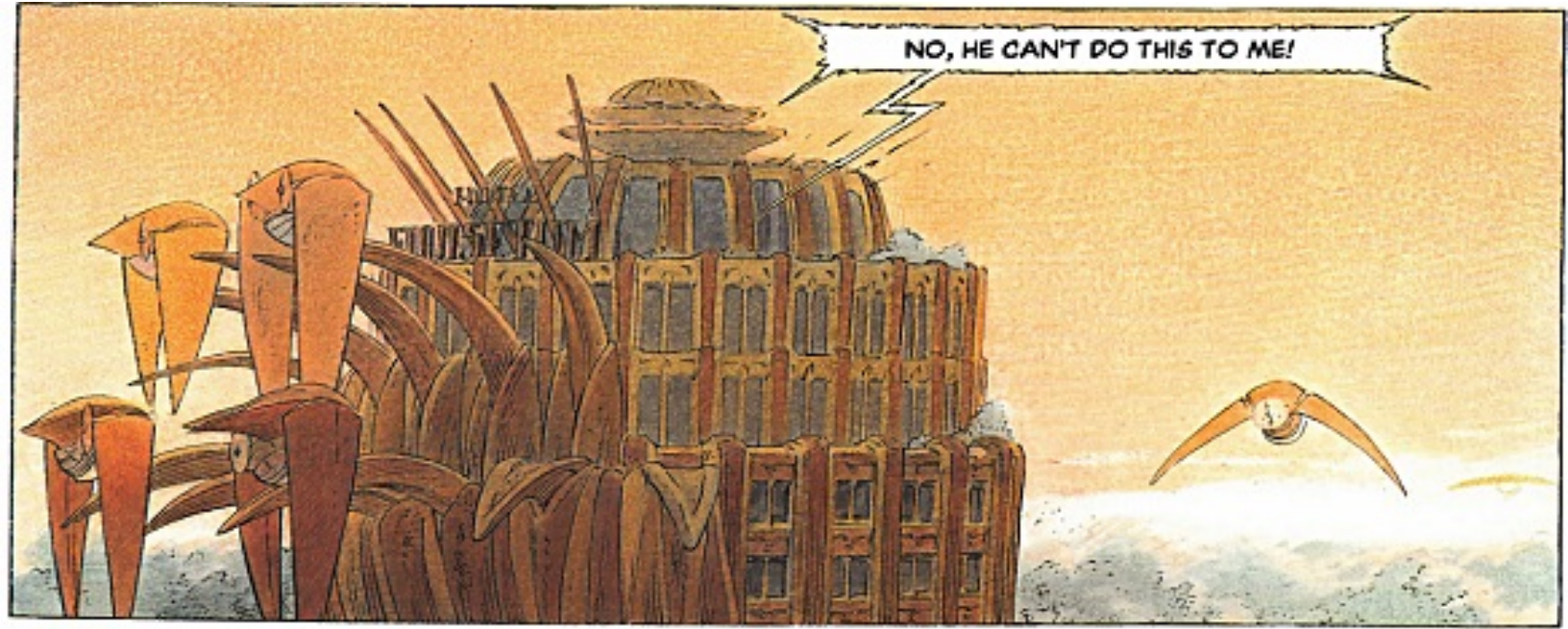
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! IT'S ALL WET!

I'M SORRY MINNA, I...



YOU WON'T EVER UNDERSTAND...





NO, HE CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!



THIS CAN'T BE! IMPOSSIBLE!



MAX! MAX! WHAT'S WRONG?

DAMN IT!



MY SHADOW...
A DISASTER...



WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOUR SHADOW?

WELL, NOTHING! IT'S BLACK,
A COMPLETELY ORDINARY
SHADOW... NOT A BIT OF
COLOUR, DREADFUL!

MAYBE IT'S THE LIGHT...
IT'S STILL EARLY.

NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED. NOTHING'S
CHANGED... EXCEPT, I'M
DREAMING AGAIN...



WE'RE DONE FOR!
THE ACT'S RUINED!

YOU'RE FORGETTING THAT I'M A SHADOW
PLAYER... AND THAT YOU'VE LEARNT A LOT.



BUT THE PEOPLE CAME BECAUSE OF THE
SHADOW, NOT BECAUSE OF US! EVEN
YOU WERE ONLY INTERESTED IN HIM!

DON'T TALK RUBBISH!
YOU KNOW THAT'S
NOT TRUE.



LISTEN, MAX, WE'VE GOT A BREAK ANYWAY. WE HAVE TWO DAYS TO THINK
OF SOMETHING... WE SHOULD PRACTICE THAT THING WITH THE HANDS AGAIN.





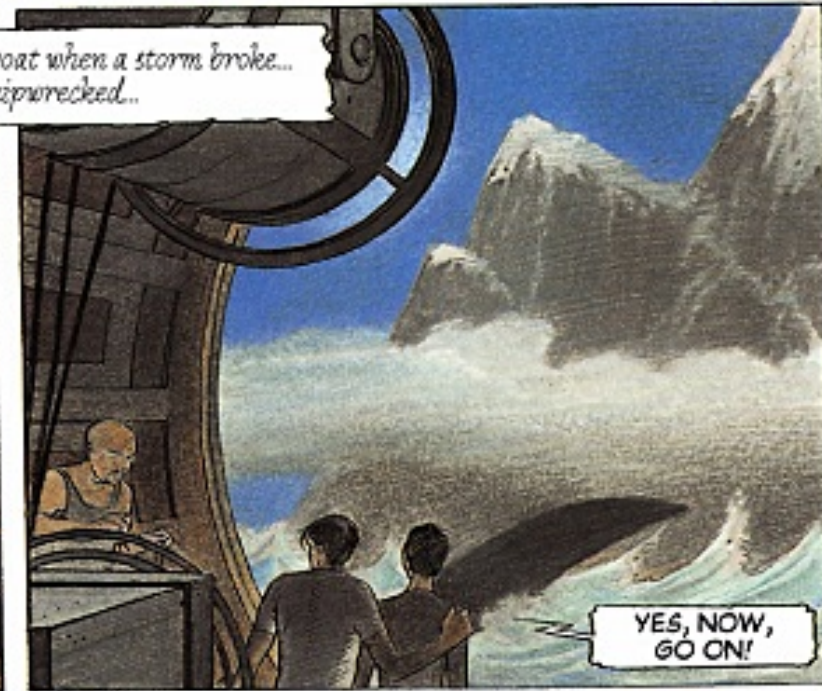


Among the monsters and beasts, a woman suddenly appeared, a giantess, I thought at first...

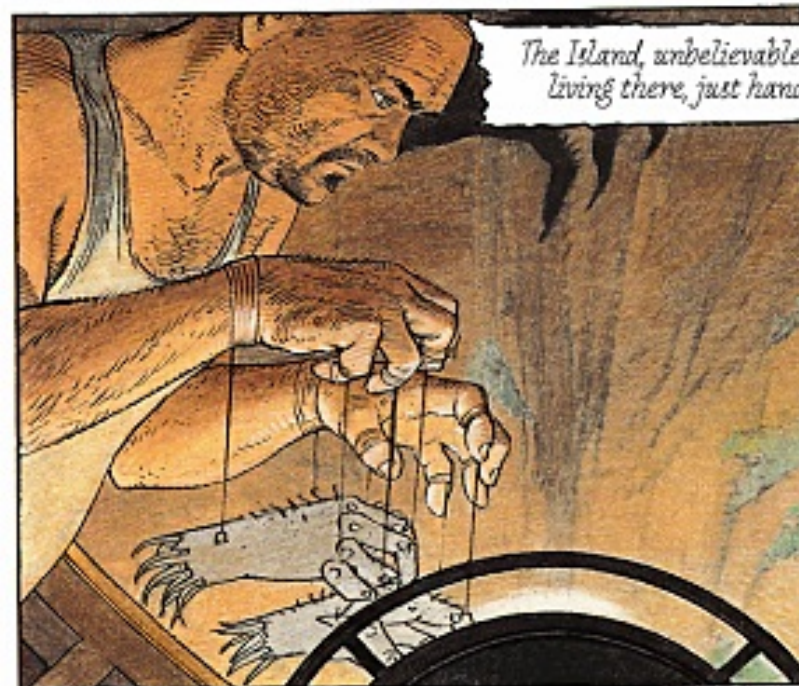


A LITTLE TO THE RIGHT, YES, THERE'S THE BOAT.

We were barely in the boat when a storm broke... we were shipwrecked...



YES, NOW, GO ON!



The Island, unbelievable! There weren't any savages living there, just hands, sinister, hairy hands...



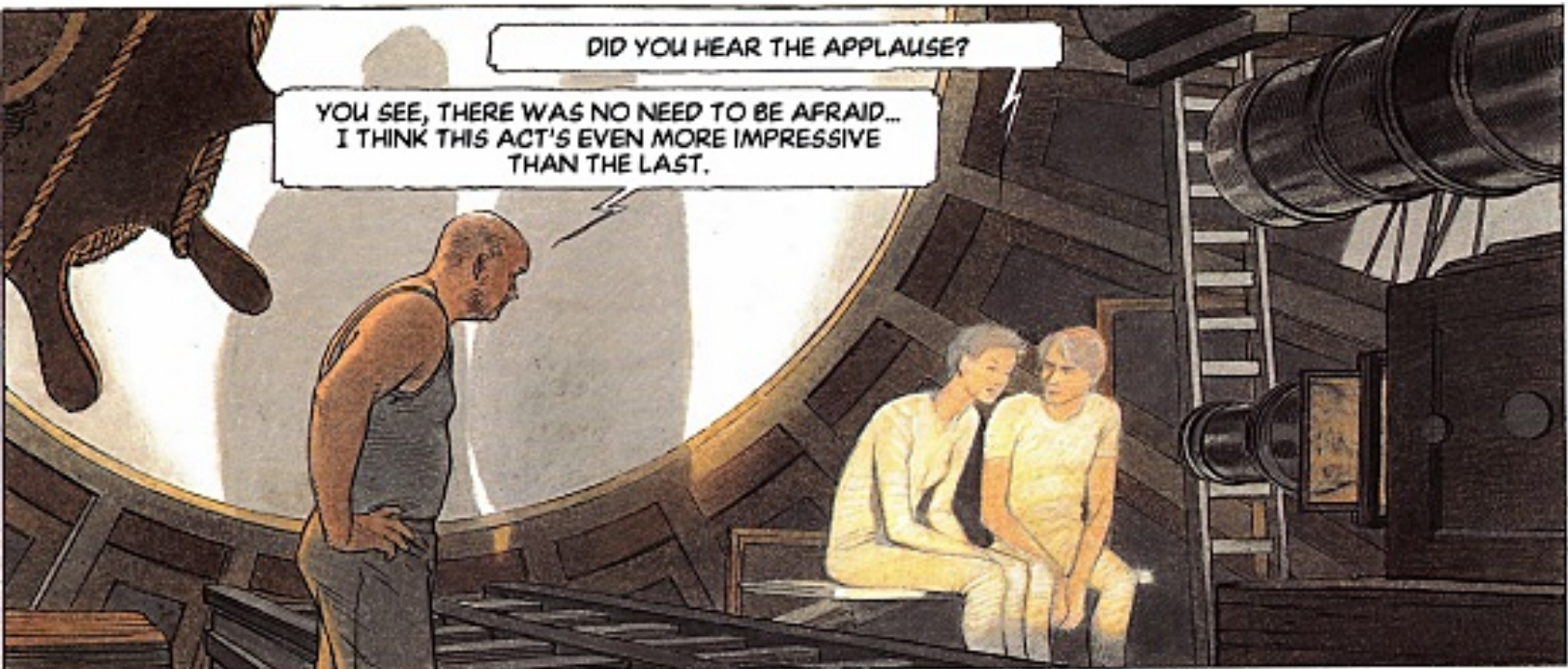
BRING THE HANDS CLOSER!

*The hands, before which we trembled and fled,
in the end, those hands saved us...*



DID YOU HEAR THE APPLAUSE?

YOU SEE, THERE WAS NO NEED TO BE AFRAID...
I THINK THIS ACT'S EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE
THAN THE LAST.



RIGHT, I'M OFF. ... TURN OFF THE LIGHTS BEFORE YOU GO.
BYE, ALAN! AND THANKS AGAIN!



THANK YOU TOO, MINNA. YOU KNOW...

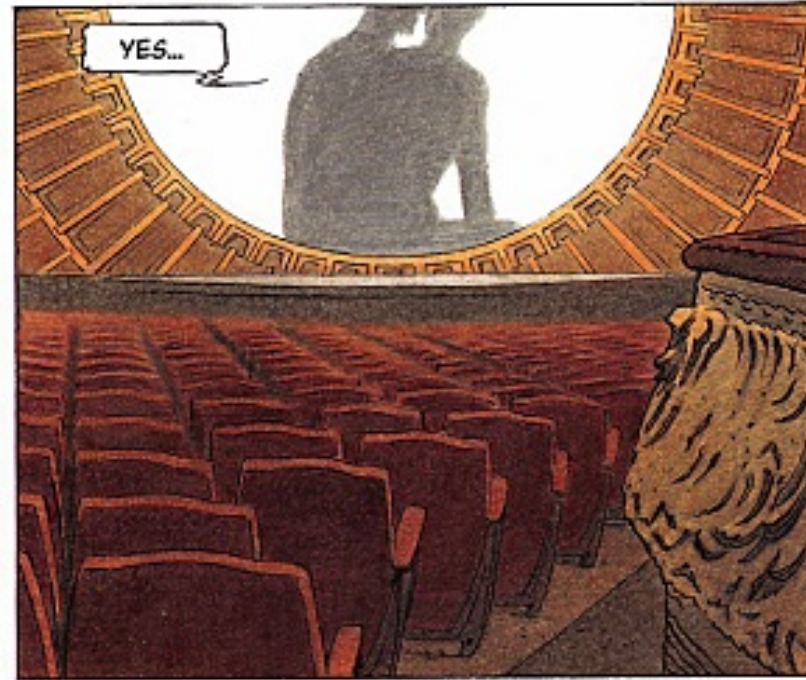
YES, I KNOW...



ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T MISS MY SHADOW?



YES...



HAST DU DEN APPLAUS GEHÖRT?

SEHT IHR, EURE FURCHT WAR UNBEGRÜNDET...
ICH GLAUBE, SO IST DIE NUMMER SOGAR NOCH
BEEINDRUCKENDER ALS VORHER.



GUT, ICH GEHE... MACHT BITTE DAS HAUPTLICHT
AUS.

TSCHÜSS, ALAN! UND DANKE NOCH MAL!

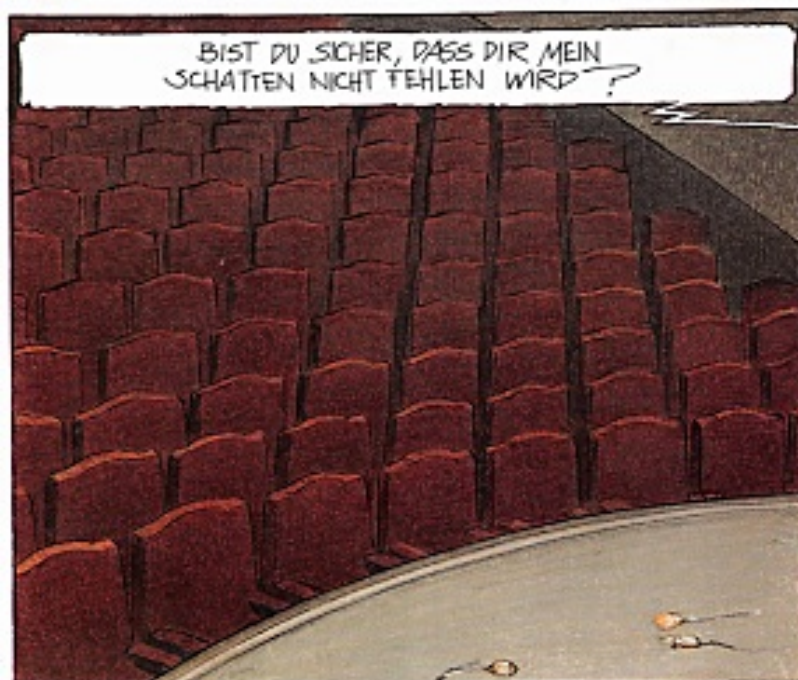


DANKE AUCH DIR, MINNA. WEISST DU...

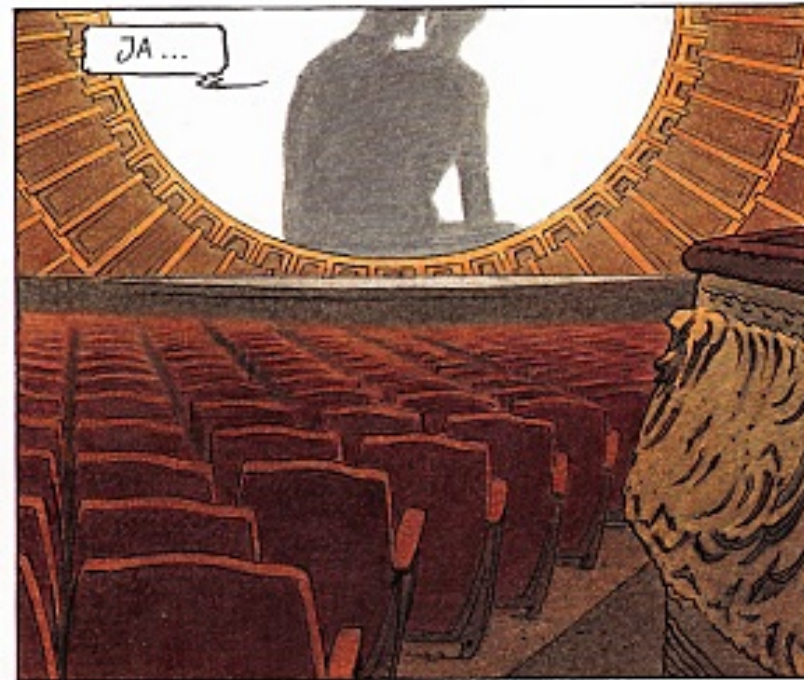
JA, ICH WEISS...



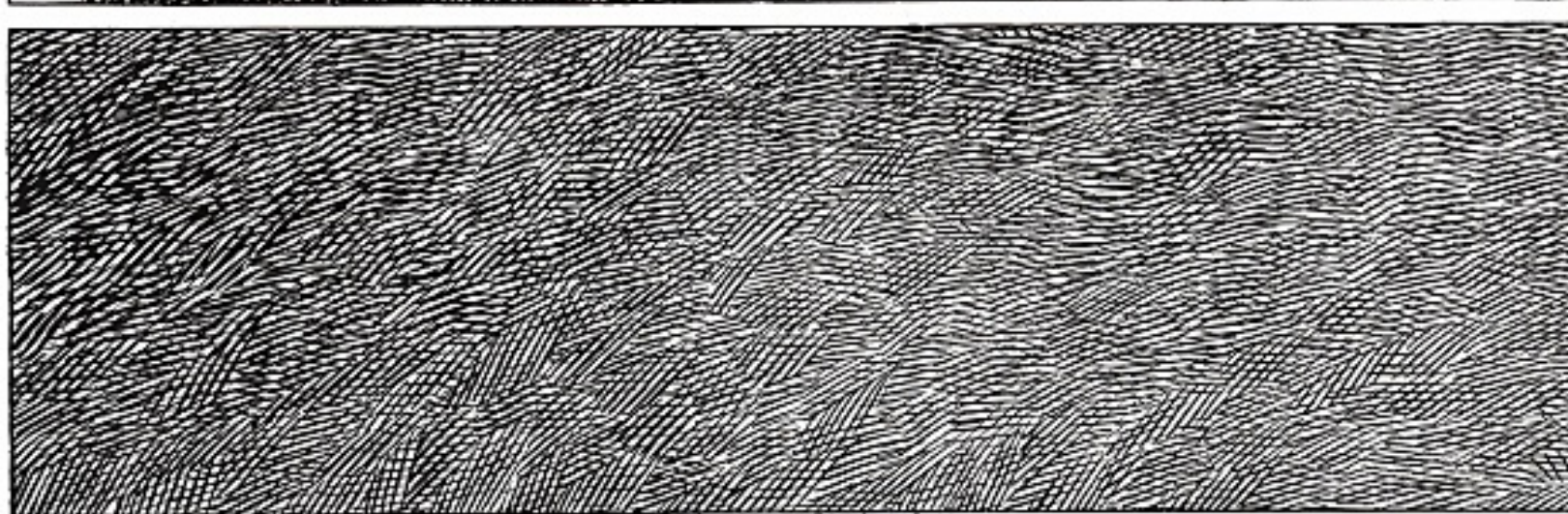
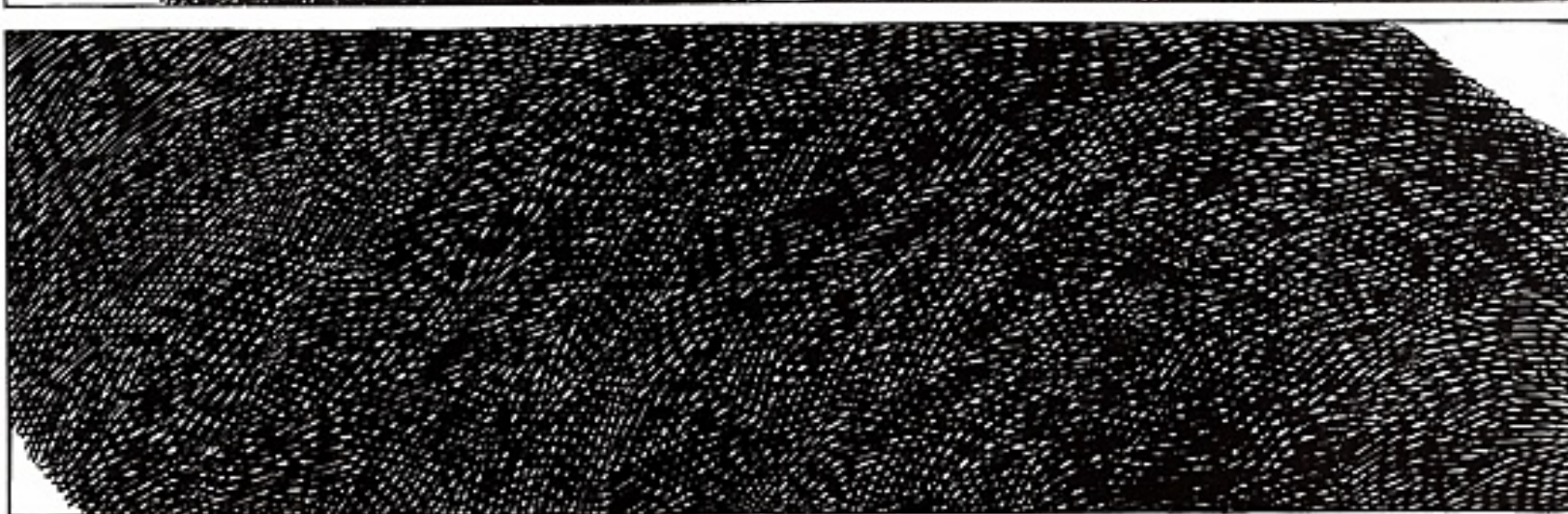
BIST DU SICHER, DASS DIR MEIN
SCHATTEN NICHT FEHLEN WIRD?



JA...









ISBN 3-81343-462-3



9 781343 434626